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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials Reported Assassinated in Tunisia

Salah Khalaf Dead

LD1501072991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] We have learned that at 2300 on Monday, 14 January, extensive firing took place inside the house of the Palestinian official Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] in a suburb of the Tunisian capital. The area was cordoned off by the security forces. It transpired that the firing has led to the killing of three people, including Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl.

The culprits have been detained. All of them are Palestinians known to the Organization. Investigations are continuing to find the reasons behind the incident.

Official Says Israel Responsible

NC1501052391 Paris AFP in English 0449 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, Jan 15 (AFP)—The deputy leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization and two PLO officials were assassinated Monday night by a PLO bodyguard "manipulated" by Israel who was arrested after taking hostage the wife and child of one of the victims, PLO officials said.

The PLO officials told AFP that the bodyguard, who was not identified, used an automatic weapon to kill the deputy leader of the PLO, Abu Iyad, 57, whose real name was Salah Khalaf; Abu-al-Hawl, [whose real name was] Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, the head of its intelligence and security services; and an adviser to Abu-Iyad, Abu-Muhammad al-'Umari.

The victims were dead on arrival at a local hospital, the PLO officials said.

They said the killing took place in Abu-al-Hawl's home in Carthage, a suburb of Tunis, where they were discussing the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

The PLO officials said, without giving further details, that the killer had been "manipulated" by Israel. He was arrested after taking hostage the wife of Abu-al-Hawl and his young daughter, they said.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat learned of the slayings when he returned to Baghdad after a two-hour visit to Jordan, where he conferred with King Husayn at Amman's airport, a PLO diplomat in Amman said.

Abu-Iyad was a member of the executive committee of the PLO. He and Abu-al-Hawl were members of the Central Committee of its largest component, Fatah, which is also chaired by Mr. 'Arafat.

In New York, the PLO representative to the United Nations, Nasir al-Qudwa, accused Israel of carrying out the attack.

"The timing of such criminal acts indicates the insistence of the Israelis to complicate things all over the region," he said.

"I don't have any details," he added. "However, we believe that it doesn't take a genius to find out at least politically which is the party most interested in such kind of criminal acts."

In April 1988, a sea-borne Israeli commando killed the PLO's military chief, Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], at his home in the same Tunis suburb of Marsa.

Background on Assassin

NC1501073691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian sources have said that negotiations with Hamzah Abu-Zayd, the assassin of Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad; Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, also known as Abu-al- Hawl; and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari; went on for six hours before his arrest.

Abu-Zayd took Abu-Al-Hawl's wife, Nadirah, and his daughter Rula as hostages, and he set the condition that he turn himself over to Tunisian officials.

A MENA correspondent has learned that Tunisian security authorities began interrogating Abu-Zayd this morning following his arrest.

It is not known whether he had partners in planning the assassination, or whether he committed it on his own. The Palestinian sources explained that Abu-Zayd stopped working for the Palestinian revolutionary ranks three years ago. After he quit working for Hayil Abd-al-Hamid, he traveled to Poland where he got in touch with Abu-Nidal's group. He returned to work with Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid as an ordinary guard.

The sources indicated that Hamzah Abu-Zayd managed to reach the room in which Abu-Iyad, Abu-al-Hawl, and al-'Umari were meeting after requesting a meeting with Abu-al-Hawl.

The sources said that Abu-Iyad died instantly, while Abu-al-Hawl and al-'Umari were rushed to the al-Tawfiq hospital in the capital, where they died.

Suspect Abu-Nidal Group Member

NC1501093891 Paris AFP in English 0835 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] TUNIS, Jan 15 (AFP)—The suspected killer of three PLO officials is a former member of the Fatah

Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], a Palestinian faction deeply hostile to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, sources here and in Nicosia reported.

An informed source in Tunis identified the suspect as Hamzah Abu-Zayd and said he quit the FRC a year ago to re-join Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement.

In Nicosia a reliable Palestinian source named the suspect as Hamzah 'Abdallah, a former FRC loyalist.

It was not immediately clear if the two men identified in the reports were the same person.

Sources in Tunis said the killer was a bodyguard assigned to Abu-al-Hawl, whose real name was Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, the head of PLO intelligence and one of three officials gunned down near here Monday night.

The attack took place in Abu-al-Hawl's home and also claimed the lives of PLO deputy leader Abu-Iyad (Salah Khalaf) and his advisor, Abu-Muhammad al-'Umari.

PLO officials charged that the assassin, who was arrested, had been "manipulated" by Israel.

But in Jerusalem a spokesman for Defense Minister Moshe Arens insisted that Israel had nothing to do with the killings.

Assassin Part of 'Agent Group'

NC1501113591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jan (MENA)—In a statement issued here today, Fatah described Hamzah Abu-Zayd as an agent planted among the guards of martyr Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid. Last night he opened machine gun fire on the martyr leaders Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari, killing them all.

The statement adds that preliminary investigations have revealed that the assassin is connected to another agent group. The statement said the leadership will inform the Palestinian people about the details of the crime as soon as the investigation is completed. Fatah affirmed that the crime will not go unpunished.

UN Delegate Blames Israel

LD1501095491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tunis, 15 Jan (SPA)—News agencies have quoted a Palestinian spokesman as saying that Fatah Central Committee members Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl] were assassinated in Tunis at dawn today. [passage omitted]

Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian delegate to the United Nations, has blamed Israel for the assassination of the two Fatah leaders. He told journalists at the United Nations today: We have no details. But I am confident that the details will be revealed at the appropriate time either in Tunis or elsewhere. Al-Qudwah added: There is no doubt in our minds that these criminal acts were committed by agents of Israel. [passage omitted]

A Palestinian source has stated that Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, the official in charge of the security machinery in the region, were meeting at Hayil's house to discuss the Gulf crisis when they were assassinated.

Guards Arrested

NC1501102091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0923 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Tunis say that Tunisian authorities have detained a number of the guards of Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid and his companions to investigate the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari by 27-year-old Hamzah Abu-Zayd, who was one of Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid's companions.

It is not yet known how many guards were arrested following the assassination, which took place yesterday at midnight.

It has been learned that Palestinian officials in Tunis immediately informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat about the incident. 'Arafat returned to Baghdad last night following a short visit to Jordan.

Tunisia Conducts Investigation

LD1501142591 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Investigations carried out by our security authorities following the assassination of the Palestinian strugglers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari have revealed that what has happened was as follows:

At about 2300 last night, Monday 14 January, while the three Palestinian officials were in the ground floor of Abu-al-Hawl's house in the Carthage quarter of Tunis and the Palestinian guards were dispersed inside the house and in the garden, while Tunisian security men were outside the garden in accordance with the security arrangements agreed upon between the Tunisian authorities and the PLO with regard to the definition of responsibilities— whereby the Palestinians alone are responsible for guarding the Palestinian leadership inside the buildings and gardens, with the Tunisian security men assuming guard duties outside—at that precise time one of the Palestinians employed by an official Palestinian department to provide personal protection to Abu-al-Hawl opened intensive fire at the three Palestinian officials using two Kalashnikov automatics, thereby killing them. He then took refuge in the upper

floor, where he detained the family of Abu-al-Hawl, namely his wife and daughter.

The Tunisian security forces then rushed to cordon off the building. When the culprit refused to surrender, the forces stormed the house and arrested him, securing the release of the hostages.

Official Palestinian sources have announced that the responsibility for this sad incident is confined solely to the culprit, who was assigned about a year to act as bodyguard for Abu-al-Hawl. [passage omitted]

Groups Denounce Assassination

NC1501135091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Louise Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The Palestinian organizations in Syria have condemned and denounced the assassination [of PLO leaders]. Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, has denounced the assassination and stressed that the Palestinian struggle and the intifadah will continue. He added that this is the time to escalate it. He also said that the operation was arranged by the Mosad, either directly or indirectly, and it served the interests of Israel and its schemes.

For his part, the spokesman for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has characterized the assassination as a great loss for the Palestinian people, who will not be terrorized and whose will will not be undermined by such a crime. Holding the United States and Israel responsible, he said this was the prelude to a new scheme against the PLO and the Palestinian people.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued a statement emphasizing that the blood of the two [as heard] martyrs will not be in vain. He called for escalating the intifadah and the armed struggle. DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah stated that this great loss will only increase the Palestinian people's determination and resolve to continue the struggle to attain their national rights.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine promised revenge and stressed that Israel will not be able to stop the Palestinian people's struggle.

The official spokesman of Fatah—the Uprising condemned the assassination, saying that it was part of an organized plan to exterminate the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland. He held Israel responsible for the assassination, as it is the only party that stands to benefit from the operation.

In another development, the movement's military spokesman has stated that one of its groups attacked a position jointly manned by Israel and Antoine Lahd's militias along the Marj al-Zuhur-Hasbayyan road [in southern Lebanon] with rockets and machine guns. The position received direct hits, and an Israeli vehicle was destroyed along with those inside. The spokesman said the group returned safely to base.

ALF Combatants Vow To Fight on Iraq's Side

NC1401154491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has declared that its combatants are ready to make effective contributions toward confronting the U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq if it takes place.

In a press statement issued by an ALF spokesman, the ALF Central Committee urged Arab people all over the Arab homeland to turn the day of aggression against Iraq into a day of widespread Palestinian wrath involving an escalation of the confrontation with the occupation troops in order to turn this confrontation into a real war that would inflict grave losses on the enemy.

The ALF Central Committee earlier held a series of meetings in which it discussed the latest developments of the current situation, as well as the threats to the Arab nation, which are taking the form of an aggression against Iraq. The ALF Central Committee also discussed ways of confronting dangers and the forces of evil and aggression.

'Arafat Interview Reviews Meeting With Saddam

NC1401151591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1212 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in Baghdad by Amman Radio correspondent Muhammad al-Sharif on 14 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Palestinian president: We learned that a short time ago you met with President Saddam Husayn and held a series of other contacts. Can you tell us about these contacts?

['Arafat] It should be understood that the next few hours are fateful for the entire Arab nation. The United States is trying to redraw the map of the region, and the foreign forces are trying to impose their will on the Arab nation. I met with brother President Saddam Husayn this morning, and we were joined later by the Libyan delegation led by brother 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. A short time ago, brother Yemeni Prime Minister al-'Attas arrived with a message from brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, and other officials were here yesterday—all exerting efforts to prevent the eruption of war and to reach peaceful solutions to all problems of the region, not only the Gulf crisis. International legitimacy, as you know, brother Muhammad, should not be divisible, and this was stressed to the Palestinian, Libyan, and Yemeni delegations this morning by brother

President Saddam Husayn. He said that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole and should not be dealt with through double standards—one for the Gulf and another for the Palestinian people, the Arab nation, the Lebanese people, and the occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories. At the same time, he told me: Do not look forward to confronting the enemy, but if you confront them, stand fast. This is the clear logic expressed by the brother president, who wants an honorable peace and not capitulation.

[Al-Sharif] Mr. President, we have learned that you held contacts with Europe over the past hours. What role do you expect the EC to play under these circumstances?

['Arafat] Yes, we are keeping in constant touch. As you know, my brother Faruq Qaddumi is touring Europe on assignment for the Palestinian leadership. We and some of those friends were in contact—Mr. Edward Heath [former UK prime minister] by telephone and Mr. Gianni de Michelis [Italian foreign minister]. At the same time, we held contacts with the French, Spanish, Greek, and EC leadership. We are continuing these efforts because we believe that the European role is basic and important. Europe knows that whatever might happen in this region, whether peace or war, will reflect on the Mediterranean. We have common geography, geopolitics [preceding word in English]. They are affected by what happens here, and we are affected by what happens there. Europe has a basic and effective role to play concerning the Middle East crisis, the Gulf crisis, and all world crises. It is never acceptable for the big countries to sit together at the Paris conference to declare and sign the end of the cold war and then come to our region, the Middle East, to impose their war and military terms on us. This is the double standard that our Arab nation, from the sea to the ocean, rejects. All the Arab masses reject such logic and such a method. We, as an Arab nation, brother Muhammad, want to participate in the making of humanity's history, welfare, and peace.

[Al-Sharif] President Abu-'Ammar, in the Arab arena, what is needed in this stage?

['Arafat] As you may know, there were Arab efforts by His Majesty King Husayn, his brother His Majesty King Hassan, his brother President Chadli Bendjedid, his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President Ould Taya, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President 'Umar al-Bashir, and his brothers in the PLO. These are the leaders of what can be called the countries for an Arab solution. We believe that, if there is one problem in the Gulf, it is totally unacceptable for us to create ten other problems in war because of that. A problem in the Gulf should be resolved like any other problem within the one Arab family, like what happened in Lebanon, between the brother Algerians and Moroccans, between us and the Syrian brothers, between the northern and southern Yemens, or between the brother Egyptians and Libyans.

All these were problems we managed to solve within the one Arab family. Therefore, I say that in this decisive phase we should not endorse anything except a responsible Arab effort. We have a responsibility before God and history, and history will not be merciful to us if we let this foreign force and these foreign countries, foremost the United States of America, impose their new order and logic on our Arab nation, for this will then be a new Sykes-Picot, Yalta, or Malta. We want to know what is going on, brother Muhammad.

[Al-Sharif] President Abu-'Ammar, yesterday you said in a news conference that the doors for a peaceful solution are open and there will be no war. On what basis did you say that?

['Arafat] I base this on the position that when we began... [changes thought] You remember that when we began with our brothers in Jordan, we were almost the only voice calling for a peaceful solution. Today, everyone is talking about a peaceful solution. All of Europe is talking about a peaceful solution. The PRC, one of the five UN Security Council permanent members, firmly urges a peaceful solution and rejects a military solution. Yesterday, the Supreme Soviet met and said that a peaceful solution is necessary, and currently the Soviets are preparing a new plan. The EC said that there is a need for a peaceful solution apart from the drums of war. The nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries, and the Arab solution countries are of the same opinion.

Does Bush want to sidestep all these countries while continuous demonstrations are taking place in the European capitals, Canada, and Australia? There are demonstrations every day even in the United States itself. There is a division there between the Senate and the House of Representatives. The two houses of Congress are divided on the issue. Even if Bush decides to go to war, this will put more responsibility on the back of the U.S. President instead of giving him a free hand, for afterward the Congress will blame him for what happened. They will say: Look, we gave you the responsibility; you are the one in charge.

Speaking from my Palestinian, Arab, and pan-Arab position, I beseech President Bush: I ask him, does he want to enter history as a peacemaker or the one who started a war that will be a catastrophe for the whole world?

[Al-Sharif] At the end of this meeting, what can the Palestinian president tell the kinfolk in the occupied land?

['Arafat] I tell them that it's always darkest before the dawn. We are nearing dawn. It is true that Israel is in a state of mobilization now and that there is a political and military U.S. team coordinating political and military efforts with Israel as part of the alliance against Iraq. Fain would they extinguish God's Light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His Light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

I tell them that we have an appointment with dawn, we have an appointment with victory, and we have an appointment with history. This is not only for free

Palestine, whose capital is Jerusalem, but also for our Arab people, a new dawn for all Arab people. God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem the prayer of victory and thanks. I recall now that lofty Koranic verse: And to enter your temple, as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu-Sharif Assesses U.S. Position on Gulf

NC1301165091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 13 Jan (INA)—The PLO has said that the U.S. Administration will be held responsible for an outbreak of war if it resorts to force to end the Arab Gulf crisis.

In news statements here today, Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that a political solution is still viable, adding that this solution was proposed by Europe through convening an international Middle East peace conference. But the U.S. Administration rejected it, and continues to pressure European and other countries to prevent this solution, Abu-Sharif added.

Abu-Sharif went on to say that the UN secretary general has a basic moral responsibility, and he is armed with the UN General Assembly's resolutions calling for an international Middle East peace conference. Accordingly, he can call for convening the conference to solve the Middle East problems.

In his statements, Bassam Abu-Sharif reiterated that U.S. President Bush's insistence on rejecting some of the UN Security Council's resolutions and on clinging to others is a discriminatory stance that does not serve peace, but exacerbates tension in the region. He pointed out that setting a timetable for implementing all the UN resolutions will spare the world a destructive war.

Abu-Sharif called on the European countries to clarify their position to Bush, and to work toward consolidating stability and security in the region. He stressed that the settlement of the Palestinian people's problem will create the basis for this stability—not the U.S. insistence on using double standards when dealing with UN resolutions.

DFLP-GC Official Rejects Linkage With Gulf

NC1401102091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0935 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA)—Dr. Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [DFLP-GC], stressed that it is illogical and unreasonable to link the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue because this does not serve the Arab nation's struggle with the Zionist enemy but only serves those hastening to hold autonomy talks and seeking to intensify Jewish emigration.

In an interview with TISHRIN published today, Dr. Naji said that the enemy is exploiting the international public's preoccupation with the Gulf crisis in order to speed up and increase Jewish emigration and to escalate its confrontation with our people in the occupied territories and their heroic intifadah. It is also using the negative results and consequences of the crisis to serve its objectives and ambitions, he said. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Discusses DFLP 'Crisis', Gulf

JN0601181191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jan 91 pp 13, 15

[Theresa Haddah dispatch from Tunisia]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP] and member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the DFLP's internal crisis is, regrettably, becoming complicated. In the past months, we tried to tackle this crisis through internal democratic means, yet it was fruitless.

In an exclusive interview by SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that there has been no response to any calls by several national forces inside and outside [the occupied territories], despite the dangerous situation in the region and the intifadah's need for consolidating national unity and uniting all national sides, factions, and figures. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that differences had emerged during the previous period, after the outbreak of the intifadah in particular, on several issues; chiefly, we saw that the intifadah had opened a new stage in the history of the Palestinian struggle. This moved the struggle's center of gravity to inside the homeland. All organizations, including the DFLP, must revise their work methods, organizational and leadership structures, and priorities. They must devote all their efforts and political and financial resources to this approach; more precisely, by becoming organizations whose center of struggle and interest is inside the homeland, and whose issues are the issues of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

If we were to call for revealing the national role and identity of our organization and making the intifadah the center of its struggle and interest, then that would call for establishing a new sort of relationship with the Arab countries and their national movements, especially with fraternal Jordan because of its position, special relationships, and historical link to the Palestinian people's struggle.

We seek to establish a relationship between the two countries and national movements on the basis of equality and independence and by maintaining special and distinct ties on all national and struggling levels.

This does not cancel the Palestinian masses' right to express their national identity within the framework of

the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. Hence, as we welcome the democratic experiment in Jordan, we see that the means to support and protect this experiment is to support the independence of Jordan, the national movement, and all active parties and forces within it. This is the other face of consolidating and safeguarding Palestinian independence, and embodying it in the future on the land of Palestine. Our national Palestinian organizations must not be for two countries or peoples, but rather must have the same degree of concern for full independence of the national parties in Jordan as for Palestinian national independence. This prepares the atmosphere for building new and correct relationships between the two peoples and national movements that can continue and consequently put an end to all regional conflicts and calls for an alternative homeland.

Full independence does not contradict protecting the national identity of our Palestinian people, or their right to return to their homeland after liberation and to practice their national role and express it within the framework of the PLO and its institutions.

It is regrettable that this issue was among those that have aggravated our internal differences. We are a Palestinian national organization whose sole and principle aim is to attain Palestinian independence and our people's right to return to their homeland. We seek to establish distinct and special relationships with the national forces and parties in Jordan on the basis of full political and organizational independence, and integration between the aims of our struggle. On this basis, we formulate our relationships with all national forces in this fraternal country. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh also said that the possibility of war is accelerating rapidly. Obviously, he noted, forces in the United States are playing up the military solution. He added that the forces in the [U.S.] Administration and the Pentagon are seeking to restructure the new international order to guarantee the continuity of U.S. control. In doing so, these forces are encouraged by their successes of the past two years, whether in Eastern Europe or in consolidating the role of the United States as a major superpower.

He added that it is clear Israel and other Zionist parties collaborating with it in the United States are an element of this drift toward war which seeks to redraw the map of the region—and even of the world.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the Israeli-Zionist role should not be underestimated, and that all the theories saying that the Gulf crisis has caused a retreat in Israel's influence in the United States are completely wrong. [passage omitted]

He added that the aim behind the arrangements made by the United States with every Arab country unilaterally, especially the regimes that connived with the U.S. scheme, is to enable these regimes to absorb the effects and outcome, especially on the popular level, that would be generated by a wide-scale U.S. aggression on Iraq—an aggression with the sole aim of destroying Iraq's economic and military power along with the factors making it a major Arab country with influence in determining the future of the region. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh added that, in spite of the comprehensive nature of the U.S. scheme, it has weak points that should be used to thwart it and foil the fulfillment of its dreams. He also noted that this scheme cannot predict precisely—despite the financial bribes offered to the [Arab] regimes—the magnitude and level of popular reaction, including the reaction within the Gulf countries themselves, in the Arab east and Maghreb countries, and the high level of popular will rising in the occupied Arab territories and in Jordan, which can open a new front against aggression and invasion to face, with a high degree of efficiency, the Israeli plans of expansion and expulsion. We think, 'Abd-Rabbuh added, that, among the needs mandated by the current situation for effective coordination among the Arab countries, there is still exceptional importance attached to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to achieve the highest degree of integration and to invoke the energies on that front, which is no less important and dangerous than the Gulf front in case war breaks out. This coordination, he said, should cover all aspects and fields to guarantee the highest degree of steadfastness and unity in the confrontation. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Issues Call No. 66 on 31 Dec

JN0401112291 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1957 GMT 2 Jan 91

["Text" of Call No. 66 issued by Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, UNLI, on 31 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No voice can rise above that of the intifadah. No voice can rise above that of the PLO. Call, call, call. Call No. 66 of the year of construction and challenge.

O masses of the sacred intifadah; O men and women strugglers for right and peace: At a time when your legendary resistance against the yoke of the occupation continues, burning the land under the feet of the fascist enemy on all streets, neighborhoods, and alleys of our independent state; when it chases the occupation to confront it on all fronts, even at the level of world opinion and the lobbies of international diplomacy; when it tightens the noose around the occupation's false claims; and when it burdens its political and economic relations; the sons of our people have continued to pay the heaviest prices to attain the most sublime objectives. Is there anything dearer than man's dignity, and the freedom and independence of the people? The economic and psychological pressures to which our people are being subjected are increasing; many people are being martyred or maimed; the prisons of the occupation are overcrowded with stalwart strugglers; those chased and separated from their families are being displaced; the

specter of poverty and hunger has started to bare its teeth; and the fire of the popular wrath against the enemy, its extremists, and repressive machinery glows. In this regard, we should recall that the intifadah has been marked by the involvement of the masses and by its characteristic steely commitment. This commitment is shown in our adherence to the spirit of unity, fraternity, and solidarity with regard to interfactional ties. It has also been manifested by the pursuit of mass disobedience to resist the enemy. This has enabled the intifadah to achieve unparalleled success and win growing international support and admiration. This has aroused the anger of the occupation authorities; dwarfed the efficiency and performance of their military arsenal; and pushed them to devise various methods to destroy the intifadah, besmirch its character, and divert its popular aspect so that it can be confined to small groups or individuals and thus made able to be dealt with in isolation, and so that there will be a decline in the people's rallying around it, along with international sympathy, to pave the way for its liquidation.

Yes, this is the exposed scheme of the enemy that will shatter against the rock of your iron will which has also crushed all methods of treachery and suppression devised, the most recent of which are the decision to deport four citizens from the Gaza Strip, the settlers' ambush of an innocent family on the Jerusalem-Hebron road, and the reward and release of the terrorists who attempted to assassinate the mayors.

The committed masses are the makers of the intifadah; they are the lethal weapon of the intifadah; these are the masses recording one victory after another through their collective struggle activities, their legendary sacrifices, determination, and will; these are the defenseless masses that have no firearms, but are armed with heroic unity and determination; these are the masses of rebellion and disobedience, the masses of strikes and demonstrations, the masses of the holy stone and the burning tire; the workers building the independent state before whom sophisticated missiles and tanks are rendered ineffective and before whom the enemy's strength turns into weakness and illusion.

O makers of glory and victory, O sons of the generation of the independent Palestinian state; let your efforts unite to break records and consolidate your steps down the path of freedom and independence irrigated by the blood of the martyrs and the pain of the oppressed and tortured of the earth. Let the whole world know that neither the policy of killing, starvation, homelessness, nor deportation will manage to abort the intifadah. To forge ahead along this sacred path, the UNLI points out the following:

The UNLI calls on all elements of the strike forces to direct all their strikes against the enemy, its vehicles and property in the occupied State of Palestine, as part of a fierce war to defend the liberated villages and locations and to strengthen and extend the liberated area to all parts of the Palestinian state.

The UNLI also calls on all elements and activists to re-form the popular committees and work on developing the structure of national authority in the various aspects of daily life. Let our slogan in this fourth year of the intifadah be to strengthen national authority. Let every one of us shoulder the burden and responsibility of erecting the pillars of this state.

The UNLI strongly condemns the attack on the Swedish nurse in the Gaza Strip and the attempt to burn one of the convents in Bethlehem and blame it on the PLO. The UNLI warns that it will deal strictly and firmly with every agent and informer who attempts to distort the image of the Palestinian people and their just cause.

The UNLI also prohibits all elements organized within groups, irrespective of their affiliation, from executing and killing suspects. This measure must not be taken except after a sentence is handed down by higher authorities in the various groups. This comes after the case is studied, reviewed, and approved by the highest Palestinian authorities.

The UNLI announces that all violators shall be viewed as if deviating from the laws of the State of Palestine. They will be punished with an iron fist.

The UNLI calls on all individuals working in the security organs to prepare the necessary statements on the suspects, particularly those of them who are armed, and on the [illegal] real estate brokers in preparation for taking the necessary measures against them. The UNLI also calls on the strike forces, the nationalist forces, not to harm the masses. The masses are the compass that sets the course of the nationalist forces. The UNLI also calls on them to consolidate the bridges of confidence and mutual respect that link the nationalist forces to the masses.

The UNLI reaffirms the ban on individuals wearing masks under any pretext to deal with the masses.

The UNLI calls on the notables of the tribes and those who seek reconciliation in every position to revitalize their activities by settling differences and disputes. Moreover, it urges the individuals organized within groupings at the sites not to allow these disputes to put on a political cloak.

With regard to the occupation's economic warfare, particularly against the holders of green cards, the UNLI once again asks the owners of companies and establishments to devise proper formulas and means to employ them, even if it has to be done through temporary contracts. Furthermore, the UNLI asks lending establishments to give priority to the establishment of cooperatives or individual projects for them, and to exempt them and their families from medical expenses and tuition fees. Additionally, the UNLI asks the General Federation of Workers to draw up a clear program to support them.

The UNLI will touch on this issue later through a comprehensive program designed to confront the green card policy. The UNLI urges people to go to the land to reclaim and plant it with fruitful trees and seasonal crops. The UNLI appeals to the sons of our people who left Kuwait to return to the homeland, pledging that we will share the loaf of bread with them. In this regard, the UNLI calls on the proprietors of factories to reduce the prices of their goods in a manner commensurate with our people's circumstances, to maintain high quality production, and not to exploit negatively the boycott of Israeli goods.

The UNLI reiterates its decision prohibiting people from raising funds by assuming the names of nationalist figures. It calls on the strike forces to mete out penalties to whoever is involved in these cheap means of extortion.

The UNLI calls on the strike forces to follow up on the embargo imposed on Israeli products to which alternatives are available. It particularly warns the merchants of Jerusalem against tolerance in this matter. Particularly, the UNLI bans the dealing of Israeli and foreign cigarettes made locally, as well as Tnuva products, soft drinks, and all brands of cookies. It declares that the presence of these products during this month in particular makes the concerned shops accountable and liable to penalties.

The UNLI greets public school teachers, and voices appreciation for fulfilling their educational mission despite the repressive measures adopted against them: not receiving their full salaries while schools were closed.

The UNLI stresses the need to confront, with a high sense of responsibility, all attempts to disrupt the educational mission of our schools and universities. The UNLI calls on the universities and educational institutions to take in as many holders of green cards as possible.

The UNLI greets the militant brothers and comrades in prisons and detention camps. It appreciates their response and militancy in refusing to pay fees. It tells all the sons of our people that the intifadah prisoners are the candles illuminating the path ahead. It is a pledge to them that militant contacts with them will continue, and that the iron bars and barbed wires will not be allowed to obstruct such contacts.

In this regard, the UNLI urges the Red Cross and concerned international organizations to intervene to secure the release of detainees and those with serious health problems. It particularly mentions struggler 'Imad al-Khalidi, who has cancer, and Mahmud Abu-Ghurrah, who lost both his eyes and hands.

The UNLI urges the UN Security Council to promote its position to provide international supervision and protection for the residents of the State of Palestine, and to call for an international conference that guarantees the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the territory of this state.

In this context, the UNLI denounces the imperialist role and the hostile policy of the United States on the Palestine question. This role made the recent UN Security Council resolution void of the serious content proposed by the nonaligned states. The UNLI urges the international community to hold a conference to provide protection, and urges world states to declare explicitly the Palestinian people's need for provisional international protection.

On Christmas, the UNLI congratulates all our Christian brothers of the various sects. On the anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution on 1 January, the revolution of the Palestinian face, the Arab depth, and human substance; the revolution of Eilabun, the convoy of martyrs, and the will of freedom; the revolution of the storm of struggle and rifle; the UNLI congratulates Fatah cubs, strugglers, and members of its Central Committee under the symbol, leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Together we pledge to continue and escalate the revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

O sons of our great people: While imperialist plots are being concocted to strike at the beating heart of Arabism and Baghdad, and while the invasion forces are preparing to destroy the growing Arab military and economic capability in Iraq in order to abort the plan of real Arab independence, our masses call on Syria and Egypt to withdraw from this unjust war before it is too late. The judgement of history will be tough and the people will have no mercy.

The UNLI states that the battle of heroism on the western front of the Arab world needs to be continued with the following schedule of popular activities:

1. All shops shall remain open on the following days: 5, 11, 20, and 25 January 1991.

2. General strikes shall be observed on the following days:
—9 January will be a day of general strike on the occasion of the 38th month of the intifadah.
—15 January shall be a day of general strike in protest against the imperialist presence in the Gulf and a warning to the occupation against any aggressive practices against our people if war breaks out.
—26 January shall be a day of general strike in protest against the escalating Jewish immigration to Palestine. Our masses abroad are called upon to demonstrate in front of the Soviet embassies to protest the intensified immigration and to call for it to stop.
—6 January shall be a day of general strike in Bethlehem and environs in accordance with the request of its people.

3. The UNLI calls on the national forces in the various areas in the State of Palestine to fix a week of struggle activities appropriate to them, including sit-ins by women and cables to international organizations in solidarity with the holders of green cards and to protest the policy of deportation.

4. During this month, let us solve the problems that ruin the national body, particularly in 'Arabbunah, Silat al-Harithiyah in Janin, the village of al-Safi in Ramallah, and other areas. We call on them to respond to the reconciliatory committees and national resolutions. Within this context, the UNLI announces the existence of a higher judicial authority for the State of Palestine to issue resolutions in difficult cases. Work continues to build an integral judicial system.

5. Antiwar protest marches shall be staged on 12, 13, and 17 January 1991.

Long live the intifadah; long live the PLO. Glory and immortality for our righteous martyrs.

A revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

[Signed] The UNLI, the PLO, the State of Palestine on 31 December 1990

Reportage on Faruq Qaddumi Visit to Europe

WA1501135191

For reportage on the visit by Faruq Qaddumi to Switzerland, France, and Spain, including reports on his talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, please see respective sections of the 14 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Algeria

Bush 'Rejects' Benjedid Peace Initiative

LD1501141291 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] When we talk about the French initiative we would like to recall that the first channel has made special investigations which showed that two points of the French initiative were proposed by President Chadli Bendjedid after his tour in the Middle East and the Gulf and his European tour. The two points are:

1. To give guarantees not to attack Iraq after its anouncement of its withdrawal from Kuwait.

2. To give guarantees for a tangible move to solve the Palestinian question.

During the last two days rumors were circulated about President Bendjedid's readiness to leave for Baghdad in a fresh peace endeavor. Some foreign information media even reported that the president was actually on his way to Baghdad. However, investigations carried out by the national broadcasting radio have revealed that on the nights of Sunday and Monday everything was ready for President Chadli Bendjedid to leave for Washington to meet President George Bush. According to these investigations the presidential plane was ready at the airport and the plan of the journey was prepared as well as the necessary visas.

However, at the last minute the U.S. side changed its mind [taharraba] and it was understood that President Bush rejects the idea of the meeting. But why? The answer is that President Bendjedid was determined to get something from the U.S. Administration—and particularly the two points we mentioned earlier—then leave Washington for Baghdad immediately thus making the actual effort of solving the crisis peacefully. Those were the two points which the foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, has discussed in depth during his recent European tour of Geneva, Paris, Bonn, and Luxemboug.

The investigation proved to us that the idea of President Bendjedid's going to Baghdad only was not on because the Iraqis had made their stand clear to President Chadli during his recent tour, and also had made clear the circumstances in which President Saddam Husayn could announce his withdrawal from Kuwait.

This means, contrary to all statements in the world and all analyses, that the ball is now in the U.S. court, not the Iraqi one. When we put these findings to official circles they neither confirmed nor denied them. However, these circles affirmed one significant thing to us: that contacts with the parties concerned are still under way and that 15 January, Tuesday, may have no significance in the eyes of Algerian diplomacy.

President Bendjedid Visits Iraq 14 Jan

LD1401121391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] We have learned that President Chadli Bendjedid will leave Algeria today for Baghdad, as stated by some sources. It is said that President Chadli Bendjedid will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Ghazali.

President Chadli Bendjedid visited a number of Arab and European capitals recently in the quest for a peaceful solution which would save the region from a devastating war.

Algerians Reportedly Volunteer To Fight for Iraq

LD1401204891 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpts] In Algeria public opinion is widely in favor of Iraq. Many young people have in fact volunteered to fight on the side of the Iraqi forces in case of war. The Iraqi Embassy in Algiers even mentioned the figure of 1 million volunteers. Anne Diseize reports from Algiers.

[Diseize] One million volunteers are reported to have enrolled to fight on the side of the Iraqi regular forces in case of war, and a number among them are reported to be on the spot already. This surprising news came from the Iraqi Embassy in Algiers. [passage omitted]

However, reinforced security measures are reported to have been implemented on the borders, and reservists are reported to have received a 15-day requisition order. I am putting this in the conditional because no one at the Defense Ministry either confirmed or denied this information.

The committee of support for the Iraqi people has asserted that all the Algerians, without exception, are siding with Iraq. It has called for a march on 14 January which is to go to the U.S. Embassy. It will be a test as earlier marches organized by this committee in Algiers or in the provinces did not succeed in amassing big crowds.

President, Party Leaders Discuss Gulf

LD1401213391 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front], and Abbas Madeni, the official spokesman of the Islamic Front for Salvation. The meeting focused on the Gulf crisis. Abdelhamid Mehri spoke to our correspondent Nasira Bou Zayd when he left the president's office:

[Begin Mehri recording] The president briefed us on Algeria's efforts since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis aimed at averting the danger of war. I believe Algeria's efforts fall within a principles stance and orientations that take into consideration the interest of the Arab nations and the Arab peoples, and no doubt the president is determined to continue these efforts and to

exploit every available opportunity to reach a peaceful settlement to the issues in question. We expressed to the president the understanding of the FLN militants and their support for Algeria's endeavors. We also expressed the Algerian people's and militants' concern over the dangerous developments and the slide toward war, and that in making the decision for war the superpowers are not immune from making mistakes, as history bears witness. We underlined that the superpowers, which seek to avert mistakes in negotiating issues, might fall into a grave mistake by declaring war, which in our view is unjustified because of the means made available by modern diplomacy to solve problems, and is not in harmony with the on-going developments in international relations, particularly between blocs with fundemental differences. We believe that dealing with current issues in the Arab world by means of war do not conform with the course blessed by the peoples; namely, the settlement of problems by peaceful means. We will continue our efforts at the popular level to prepare the people to confront all risks of war, and we hope that all Algerian parties and organizations stand united behind a united stand of the Algerian people. [end recording] [passage indistinct]

Nationals To Be Evacuated From Middle East

LD1501091491 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers 15 Jan (APS)—The Algerian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement saying that due to the development of the Gulf crisis, the Algerian authorities have adopted the necessary measures to evacuate within 48 hours all Algerian citizens in the Middle East who have expressed a wish for this.

The statement added that three planes are now on their way to Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and Oman to evacuate 1,000 Algerian nationals.

A program has been organized for the arrival of these flights at Houari Boumedienne International Airport.

The statement concluded by saying that further measures will be taken to evacuate Algerian nationals living in Syria.

Protests Planned at U.S. Embassy in Algiers

'Peaceful March' 14 Jan

LD0901180391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] While the outcome of the Gulf crisis hinges on war and peace, international public opinion, including public opinion in Algeria, continues to express its position. To this effect, the Algerian Committee in Support of the Iraqi People intends to stage a peaceful march on 14 January in solidarity with the Iraqi people and in support of a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Our colleague Nouara has conducted this interview with the chairman of the committee, Mr. Boustandji.

[Begin recording] [Nouara] Mr. Boustandji, why are you staging this march on 14 January?

[Boustandji] We are staging this march because of the UN resolution allowing the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait. Therefore, on 14 January we are staging this march against war and the destruction of the region and also against the danger facing the Middle East. We chose this date because we notice that world conscience, even in Europe, America, and so on, is [awake], hence the present demonstrations in favor of peace in the region. Moreover, we the Algerian people are first of all Arab and Muslim and we are also threatened. It is not only Iraq which is threatened, but the existence and survival of the entire Arab and Muslim world. Therefore, we in Algeria must express our anger and condemnation of the use of force and [we must support] peace in the region.

The Committee in Support of the Iraqi People has contacted all the political parties and organizations in Algeria asking them to take part in this event on 14 January.

[Nouara] Mr. Boustandji, where is the march starting from?

[Boustandji] It will leave from Addis Ababa Square towards the U.S. Embassy. It will be a peaceful march.

[Nouara] You know that Baker and Tariq 'Aziz are meeting in Geneva. Should the talks lead to satisfactory results for the Iraqi side, will you still go ahead with the march?

[Boustandji] The march will go ahead even if the Iraqi side is satisfied with the solution [reached at Geneva] because there is still another outstanding problem, namely the Palestinian problem. [end recording]

Sit-In Scheduled 15 Jan

NC1201173591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (INA)—Algerian cities will witness mass marches and rallies on Monday [14 January] which Algerian and Arab organizations in Algiers have called for to express the rejection of the Algerians and Arabs residing in Algeria of the logic of war whose drums the United States is beating.

The INA correspondent in Algiers cited those in charge of organizing these marches and rallies as advising that preparations have been completed. They said a mass demonstration will march from the center of the capital on Monday afternoon toward the U.S. Embassy. Algerian and Arab parties, organizations, and labor unions present in Algiers will take part in it.

The Algerians will stage a sit-in around the U.S. Embassy in Algiers on the night of 15 January in a challenge to the date set by the U.S. Pentagon as a deadline for implementing the hostile course of U.S. policy in the Arab Gulf region and as an expression of the Algerians'

rejection of the policy of imposing custodianship through which Bush is trying to rob the Arab nation of its free will.

Other Algerian cities will also witness mass marches and rallies at the same time to protest the logic of war and as an expression of the Algerian people's support for Iraq in its defense of Arab dignity and existence.

The General Union of Algerian Women has decided to participate in the sit-in around the U.S. Embassy in Algiers and in the other sit- in around the U.S. consulate in Oran, west of Algiers. This sit-in has been called for by the Movement for Democracy which is led by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella to denounce the policy of war and to express the Algerian women's rejection of the U.S. Pentagon's threats to the Iraqi people.

A number of parties, organizations, unions, and vocational associations have issued statements and appeals expressing their absolute support for Arab right, whose banner is being raised by Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. They also expressed the willingness of the Algerians and their various organizations and political and vocational associations to carry weapons and go to the trenches of Iraqi mujahidin in support of the Arab right against the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Preventive Measures Set

LD1401134391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Like other world capitals, the Algerian capital Algiers is witnessing peaceful demonstrations denouncing the war in the Gulf. All necessary measures have been taken to prevent the demonstrations from taking place in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Urges Attack on U.S. Interests

NC1301165491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 13 Jan (INA)—The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has called on Muslims around the world to get ready for the destruction of U.S. and Zionist interests wherever they may be in the event of the outbreak of war in the Arab Gulf region.

FIS second in command Shaykh 'Ali Belhaj said during a massive gathering in the Algerian capital that a U.S. attack on Iraq will generate an uncontrollable wave of wrath in the Islamic countries.

Shaykh Belhaj said that responsibility for the outbreak of war will be borne by the Gulf shaykhs, foremost among whom are the Al Sa'ud rulers. He added: We cannot remain silent at a time when we see Iraq being subjected to aggression. We will confront this aggression with all force.

Meanwhile, FIS leader Abbasi Madani said in a press statement here today that a war against Iraq will be a war against Algeria.

Islamic Group Officials Reportedly Resigning

LD0901232191 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] In Algeria, problems and upheaval within the Islamist movement, in the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in particular. This movement, which won a large victory in the municipal elections, experienced recently a series of resignations. (Anne Duseize) explains:

[(Duseize)] This trend started last summer and escalated at the end of September. It has just been made public. Other provinces have been affected, and the reasons given in the letters of resignations are almost always of family nature. No one is being fooled by this. Furthermore, the leadership of the religious party is very critical vis-a-vis those who resigned. It accused some among them of being willing to go to France to carry out higher studies, which is a very big insult.

The FIS members elected locally do not hesitate to resign, as well. Some elected members are reportedly not abiding fully to the requirements of their party. It was confirmed that the FIS municipalities are experiencing real running difficulties. Before elections, this party promised everything, including heaven, which is rather difficult to keep.

Furthermore, the FIS trawled too widely to fill the lists of its candidates. Today, these people whose interests have little in common do not want to assume the more and more frequent clashes between the municipalities and prefectures or with citizens who are disappointed due to unkept promises.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Yemeni Peace Plan

NC1401231591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Informed sources at the Foreign Ministry have stated that they noticed that the points of the Yemeni peace intitiative reported by news agencies today did not contain an important element which the Yemeni foreign minister included in the ideas for an integrated Yemeni initiative, which he presented to President Mubarak during his visit to Cairo. The sources added that these points, as reported by news agencies, did not include the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy as part of the integrated solution proposed by Yemen. Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani clearly noted the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy in the proposals he presented to Egypt.

The Egyptian sources also noted that the paper presented by the Yemeni foreign minister included the idea of beginning the withdrawal of the foreign forces deployed

in the Arabian Peninsula once the Iraqi forces begin to withdraw and Arab peacekeeping forces begin to arrive.

The Egyptian sources noted, however, that among the points of the Yemeni proposal as reported by news agencies was the call for the withdrawal of the foreign forces deployed in the region once Iraq agrees in principle to withdraw from Kuwait, not once the actual withdrawal begins.

The Egyptian forces said they noted that the points reported by the news agencies did not include the formation of a good offices committee from the Arab kings and presidents to resolve the existing differences and conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. This was one of the points contained in the proposals presented by the Yemeni minister.

In addition, the point reported by the news agencies regarding the issue of ending the international blockade imposed on Iraq was worded differently than it was in the paper presented to Egypt. The paper calls for ending the international blockade against Iraq once it begins to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. Meanwhile, the news agencies reported that the proposal calls for ending the economic blockade against Iraq once the conflicting parties agree on these proposals. There is a discrepancy between the two texts.

The Foreign Ministry sources said: When Cairo received these proposals, it asked the Yemeni side to present them to Iraq and affirmed that Iraq should issue a pledge to withdraw its Armed Forces immediately from Kuwait. The Yemeni foreign minister promised to do all he could to obtain Iraq's agreement to announce its intention to withdraw and to actually withdraw its forces.

Our correspondent has learned that the Yemeni paper which was discussed during the talks held by the Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Cairo contains the following points:

1. The countries that have sent their forces to the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf pledge not to resort to force or to use it against Iraq to resolve the Gulf crisis.

2. The Iraqi Armed Forces will withdraw from Kuwait.

3. In accordance with the Arab League resolution, an Arab peacekeeping force will be deployed in the disputed area between Iraq and Kuwait after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

4. The countries that have ground, naval, and air forces in the region will not send these forces or any part of them to Kuwaiti territory after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces.

5. The foreign forces deployed in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf shall begin to withdraw once the Iraqi forces begin to withdraw and the Arab peacekeeping forces begin to arrive in Kuwait. This does not imply that the withdrawals must be simultaneous.

6. Once the parties to the conflict accept these ideas, an Arab good offices committee shall be formed from the kings and presidents of some Arab countries to resolve the existing differences and dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

7. The international blockade against Iraq will end once it begins to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

8. The resolution or resolutions to be issued by the Security Council to abide by Articles 1, 4, 5, and 7 should include a clear affirmation that the Council will work to end all forms of disputes in the Middle East peacefully in order to guarantee the region's security and independence as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination through convening an international peace conference.

Paper Reports on Saddam Plan To Flee Iraq

NC1401213091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Security sources have revealed the plan drawn up by Saddam Husayn to escape the inferno of the war expected to break out after tomorrow, Wednesday, when the Security Council deadline, the last chance for Saddam to withdraw, expires tomorrow.

The opposition paper AL-AHRAR reports that, according to the plan, upon the outbreak of war Saddam will flee aboard his private plane, which as of now is at a secret airstrip, ready to take off at any minute, leaving the army and the Iraqi people in the inferno of war while he enjoys a quiet life outside the Arab region.

Part of the plan was revealed by Saddam's private guard Karim 'Abdallah al-Jabburi, who fled to Paris on 10 September after he failed to assassinate Saddam, and who is now residing somewhere in the French capital under tight security.

Al-Jabburi asserted that Saddam now lives at his secret estate near the airport named after him—Saddam Airport. The estate contains 21 houses, among which Saddam moves for security reasons. All these houses are connected to auxiliary secret tunnels leading to a key secret tunnel leading directly to the runway of the secret airport, where Saddam's private plane is on standby for takeoff.

The paper said that Saddam had transferred large sums, estimated in the billions, to Swiss and other Western bank accounts, and that the sums have been deposited under an assumed name. According to the plan, after he flees, Saddam will undergo cosmetic surgery to alter his facial features at a private hospital that performs such operations for huge prices. Then he will spend his time moving among several world capitals posing as an Arab billionaire, leaving behind him the devastation and destruction of Iraq, which is awaiting partition, and whose people await displacement.

Papers Discuss Events, Saddam's 'Stubborness'

NC1501113291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0757 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—In their commentaries today, Cairo newspapers highlight developments in the Gulf region after all peaceful solutions and overtures put forward to the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Husayn, have been exhausted. This has made the dangers of a destructive war in the region increase rapidly. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "On the Way to Hell," AL-AKHBAR says that Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet expert on Middle East affairs, sums up the secret of the strange stubbornness to which Saddam still clings to the last minute, by saying that Saddam believes that if his downfall or departure is inevitable, then it is better for it to happen during a war.

Primakov, who has known Saddam Husayn for 21 years, and who was sent as President Gorbachev's special envoy to him during the Gulf crisis, is quoted as saying that Saddam is the victim of the strong notion that the whole world cannot confront him, and that this is the final stage of megalomania, which dooms anyone suffering from it.

The paper concludes by saying that the Baghdad tyrant is not the first leader under the spell of his own imagination and illusions, which have robbed him of the ability to think soundly and to use his mind and logic when making decisions. However, he is the first president to insist on taking all his people with him in his final trip to hell.

Under the title "After the Decision", AL-AHRAM writes that President George Bush sees the Congress' authorization for him to use force against Iraq, should it fail to withdraw from Kuwait, as a firm backing in his next moves regarding the crisis, as well as the last U.S. message to Iraq's Saddam.

The paper adds that the United States is expected to be firmer in the coming stage. This was manifest in the tone of President Bush's message to Iraq in which he warned that any terrorist operations against his country's citizens or those of the anti-Iraq coalition member states will be deemed the sole responsiblity of Saddam Husayn personally.

The paper points out that the Congress' authorization was the last step in the efforts to tighten the Americans' grip on things. It also notes that the intention is to adopt all necessary measures to ensure that Saddam Husayn will not get away with his booty in Kuwait and that he will not escape punishment in case of a terrorist operation against the member states of the coalition.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that it would not be an exaggeration to say that the process of chasing Saddam as the person responsible for the catastrophe of the invasion and its aftermath in terms of minor crimes, has begun and will continue until the end.

Under the title "The Last Moment and the Peace Endeavors," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that in the past two days Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has closed a door or two that could have removed the specter of war and led to peace. The paper notes that the UN secretary general emerged from Baghdad to declare that Saddam absolutely made no mention of the word withdrawal during his meeting with him. The paper asks: Does this mean that the door to peace is shut completely? Is war inevitable? Citing a U.S. official, the paper answers by saying that no one can tell for sure if war will or will not break out, but the peace endeavors and efforts will continue until the last moment.

The paper adds that a war decision right after the deadline set for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait expires is not something inevitable, because the deadline, according to President Bush, is for Iraq and not for the international coalition opposed to Baghdad's posture. The paper notes that to prevent the decision for war, the entire world, particularly the Arabs, support the continued endeavors to avert a catastrophe and find a solution that will ensure peace, safeguard what is right, and preserve Arab and international legitimacy, because the issue at stake today is the destiny of a people and the future of a nation.

In conclusion, the paper says that this has always been the policy of the Egyptian people and leader since the first day of the invasion. This policy will remain strong and firm because it seeks to safeguard the Arabs' rights and protect their sovereignty from anyone thinking of encroaching upon these rights or violating this sovereignty.

Commentary Criticizes Iraqi National Assembly

NC1401152791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "O Arab people: You Must Stand Against Saddam"]

[Text] The Iraqi National Assembly has passed a resolution supporting Saddam Husayn's policy on the Gulf crisis. It refuses to make any concessions regarding Kuwait. This resolution was passed just 24 hours before the deadline set by the Security Council for the withdrawal the Iraqi forces on 15 January before the use of force is authorized. Thus, the Iraqi National Assembly has closed the door completely to any attempt to secure a peaceful settlement in the remaining short period. This means that this legislative body, which is supposed to represent the Iraqi people, has decided with cool nerves to defy the world which rejects the principle of aggression against Kuwait. Although we know full well that the Iraqi National Assembly is Saddam Husayn, that the ruling party leadership is Saddam Husayn, that the Armed Forces supreme commander is Saddam Husayn, and that the Iraqi information media are Saddam Husayn, we had hoped that dignity would prompt the National Assembly members to make the right decision and accurately assess the political situation so as not to

drive matters to the edge of the abyss through any erroneous decision. Real courage for the Iraqi and Arab peoples does not lie in standing on the side of Saddam Husayn, but in the ability to speak the truth, however difficult. The truth needs no explanation, because the issue is crystal clear. Everyone in the world knows that Iraq occupied and annexed another country by force and turned a deaf ear to any advice to withdraw from Kuwait.

Since Saddam Husayn has persisted in his obduracy and insisted on rejecting all international appeals and proposals to withdraw his forces from Kuwait to contain the crisis, and since Saddam is unable to retract his intransigent position after his worldwide uproar about his historic rights, the return of the branch to the origin and the part to the whole, and after turning Kuwait into his 19th governorate, the National Assembly should have borne the responsibility of backing down from these claims, even if this were to go against Saddam's desire. The Iraqi National Assembly's decision, therefore, has not only supported Saddam's military aggression against Kuwait and helped him place the Iraqi people and the Arab nation at an awesome, historic impasse, but has also eliminated all possibilities of reaching an acceptable settlement within the next 24 hours.

We warned against a catastrophe on 2 August. We and many others said that the magnitude of the catastrophe is bigger than Saddam can imagine and greater than what the Iraqi and Arab people can tolerate. The Iraqi National Assembly's decision dealt a blow to all the aspirations of the Arab people and world public opinion for a settlement that would prevent a bloody confrontation between the Iraqi and multinational forces. All that Saddam—or the Iraqi National Assembly—has done is to move the prospect of horrible fighting to the heart of the Arab nation. Modern warfare, with all the implied disasters, would occur in Arab cities, turn civilization into ruination, people into dismembered bodies, and wealth into ashes, and would drag free Arab willpower to hellish circles and labyrinths in which efforts, frontiers, and dreams would evaporate. Saddam Husayn has imposed on the Arab nation the wrong battle at the wrong time, and tried to portray this as the path of Arabs to glory and dignity. What is uglier is that he refused to listen to all Arabs, both supporters and opponents. What he has done is not in the interests of the Arabs by any standard. His usurpation of Kuwait was at first prompted by greed, stubbornness, intransigence, and attrition of legitimacy in dealing with the crisis. In the end, or near the end, he demonstated apathy toward any pan-Arab sentiment for the Iraqi people and the Arab peoples. It remains for the Iraqi people and Arab people to say a new word, more decisive and louder, in order not to leave their lives and destinies in the hands of Saddam, who will destroy them.

Al-Baz: Cairo Committed to 'Integrity' of Jordan

NC1501134391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's office director for political affairs, has emphasized that under no circumstances will we allow any Arab state to be threatened by Israel or any other country. Speaking to visitors of the 23d Cairo Book Fair last night, he said we are committed to the integrity of Jordan, which we are bound to by the Joint Arab Defense Pact. Israel is not a party to the Gulf crisis, and any Israeli intervention would be aimed at undermining the Arab position and splitting Arab ranks further, something we have pointed out to the United States, al-Baz added.

Mubarak Says Troops Will Not Enter Iraq

NC1501063191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Egypt warned Israel yesterday that it will not allow it to threaten Jordan. The Egyptian newspaper MAYU, the organ of the ruling party, has quoted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as saying that Egyptian troops will not enter Iraq. He added that his troops now in Saudi Arabia will enter Kuwait as security forces.

Sidqi Meets With Governors on Security Measures

NC1401205491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Following his approximately seven-hour meeting with the governors today, also attended by a number of ministers, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that all issues related to national security vis-a-vis the prevailing circumstances in the Gulf were reviewed, including measures taken by each governorate in this respect. He said this review also dealt with the general situation regarding security, availability of supplies, preparations of civil defense and hospitals, and other issues. He pointed out that the supply situation is completely reassuring, and that strategic reserves of all commodities are available and sufficient for several months.

Sidqi stressed that the security departments are fully prepared to secure all points of entry and exit at ports, airports, and public establishments. He called on all sons of the people to be completely vigilant to confront any elements that might infiltrate the country. He praised the Egyptian media's role, and called on newspapers and information media to redouble their efforts and instruct citizens to refrain from hoarding any foodstuffs or medicines. He called on the sons of the people to notify the security organs of any abnormal situation that any citizen may notice anywhere in order to preserve the security of citizens and the homeland.

Foreign Minister Greets Waldheim, Comments on Gulf

NC1401191691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the situation in the Gulf is serious and that time is running out. He said that the world had hoped that the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mission in Baghdad would succeed, but what has been announced about the outcome of the mission so far does not indicate any progress. In a statement during his reception of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at Cairo Airport today, he said that the only road to peace is well known: a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government, and implementation of the Security Council resolutions. He said that Egypt has sought peace and exerted its utmost efforts toward that end since the onset of the crisis. He noted that a peaceful solution lies in Iraq's agreement to withdraw.

Responding to a question on the possibility of forming a delegation to negotiate with Saddam Husayn, 'Abd-al-Majid said that negotiations are possible after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of legitimacy, and implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Asked about what would happen should Saddam withdraw from Kuwait after the deadline, 'Abd-al-Majid said: If he is serious, why not withdraw now and spare the region the dangers of war? He said that the possibility that Saddam Husayn may declare a withdrawal after the deadline is a matter for the Security Council, which set the deadline.

Asked about Egypt's view of developments in the situation, 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt's position has been clear, specific, and public from the start of the crisis. Egypt has sought to achieve peace and spare the region the danger of war, and has put forth every possible effort, but time is critical and running out, and the sitution is serious.

Ghali Comments on Linkage, Peace Prospects in Gulf

NC1401195991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has not lost hope for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. A short while ago, he spoke to our colleague Faridah al-Shubashi about the Egyptian position in case of Israeli aggression against Iraq or Jordan. Let us listen to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shubashi]: Your excellency, do you still have hope for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis? Do you expect a French-Arab initiative in the final hours before 15 January?

[Ghali] We must continue to have hope, because peace is a goal that we must struggle to achieve. As for the possibility of an Arab-French, French, or European initiative, I have no information on such overtures. However, we must seek and act in order to save peace until the last moment.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, what will be the position of Egypt, which is participating in the coalition against Baghdad, if Israel launches an aggression against Iraq or Jordan?

[Ghali] We hope this will not occur, because if such aggression takes place, it will complicate the efforts to contain the situation.

[Al-Shubashi] The United States refuses a linkage between the Gulf and Middle East crises, and demands the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait before opening the file of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Is this not a type of linkage, but in the opposite direction?

[Ghali] There is no doubt that international law endorses the same position on any occupation, and that it rejects the annexation of land by force. From the legal point of view, undoubtedly, there is common basis between the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Arab territories since 5 June 1967 and the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. What we reject, however, is political linkage, because we believe that we must give priority to the Gulf issue and then make use of addressing the Gulf issue as a precedent to deal with the Palestinian issue.

[Al-Shubashi] U.S. warships loaded with nuclear arms crossed the Suez Canal today. Does this mean that weapons of mass destruction will be used in the war against Iraq?

[Ghali] We have great hopes that weapons of mass destruction will not be used in the war, should it break out. As I have said, we still have hopes for achieving a peaceful settlement to this crisis. [end recording]

On Hopes for Peaceful Solution

NC1401093591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt and France are trying to save peace and avert war in the Gulf.

In a statement broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo last night, Dr. Ghali, who is currently on a visit to France, said that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis should be based on the UN Security Council resolutions which provide for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy there.

Ghali Leaves for African Tour 11 Jan

NC1101141291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Togo this afternoon on an African tour lasting several days.

In a departure statement, Dr. Ghali said that he is carrying a written message from President Husni Mubarak to Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema. He added that he will attend the second session of the joint Egyptian-Togolese committee in Lome which will discuss bolstering bilateral relations in the commercial, economic, and cultural fields. He added that there are a large number of Egyptian experts working in Togo and that he will meet with them during this visit.

Dr. Ghali said that he will then travel to Benin to deliver a written message from President Mubarak to President Mathiew Kerekou on bilateral relations.

Ghali Addresses Final Session of Conference

NC1001212591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The 21st conference for Afro-American dialogue held its final session this afternoon after four days of discussion on a number of current African issues as well as ways to promote Afro-American cooperation.

In his address to the final session, Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, emphasized the need for cooperation among the African states as part of South-South relations. In a bid to consolidate this cooperation, Egypt has set up the Egyptian Development Fund, which provides the African states with the specialists and expertise they need, he added.

Sudan

RCC's Salih Delivers Message to Saddam, Returns

EA1101150891 Khartoum SUNA in English 0959 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 January (SUNA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received a written message from the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] General 'Umar al-Bashir. The message was handed to President Saddam by deputy chairman of the RCC Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih yesterday.

While there, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr discussed with the Iraqi officials the current situation in the Gulf. [Khartoum SUNA in French at 0849 GMT on 11 January reports that Salih has returned to Khartoum.]

Sahlul: Sudan 'Will Never Change' Gulf Stand

EA1401161691 Khartoum SUNA in French 0929 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA)—Sudan will never change its position on the Gulf situation, regardless of the pressures that might be brought to bear on it, the foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has declared. In an interview published on Monday in London by the London magazine AL-TADAMUN, Mr. Sahlul stressed Sudan's rejection of the foreign military presence in the region and its demand for an Arab solution to the crisis. He added that the call for war made by a few countries was to the detriment of Arab welfare, as was the intensified presence of foreign forces, which he castigated.

Armed Forces Claim Destruction of Rebel Camps

EA1401114091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 13 January (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have destroyed a number of rebel camps at the Upper Nile Region, killing 25, injuring large numbers, and seizing considerable quantities of arms and ammunition. The Armed Forces General Command, in a statement it issued here yesterday, said another Armed Forces group clashed with the rebels in the area of Fanjak, the Upper Nile; 40 rebels were killed and 200 Kalashnikov guns were seized in the battle, the statement said.

The statement added that the Armed Forces stationed in Southern Kurdufan killed 10 rebels and captured a number of light weapons in an offensive it launched on a rebel camp at the area of Abu al-Hasan Mountain. On the other hand, the same source indicated that the Popular Defense Forces in Southern Kurdufan inflicted heavy casualties on the rebels' ranks in the area.

300 Rebels Reported Killed in Kurdufan Clashes

EA0701184291 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Three hundred rebels were killed, including a major and two first lieutenants, last Friday by the Armed Forces troops at (Jabal al-Musommo) Area, southeast of Kurdufan, a reliable source at the Armed Forces General Command announced. The sources have disclosed that an armed unit code-named Numur Kurdufan [Kurdufan Tigers] has launched an offensive on the rebels at the area, destroying a rebel camp and inflicting heavy losses on them. The Army has seized a considerable number of arms and ammunition, the source said. The source emphasised that the Army troops had suffered six deaths and 26 wounded.

The source has also said another Army unit code-named The Lions of the Blue Nile has attacked the rebels' positions in the Southern Blue Nile and Northern Upper Nile inflicting heavy casualties on the outlaws. The Armed Forces have seized a number of arms and ammunition, the sources added.

Al-Bashir Lauds Relations With Chad

EA1401115091 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 13 January (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chariman of the Revolution Command Council, stressed today that Sudan would do everything possible to help the brothers in Chad to overcome the difficulties they are facing and to solve their problems. In a speech to media and press

chiefs during his regular meeting with them (?today), his excellency lauded the strong (?ties) between the countries which have (?developed) since the new situation in Chad, pointing in this respect to Major Gen. al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir's recent visit to Chad and the current visit to the country by a Chadian delegation.

Rift Reportedly Develops in Relations With UAE

EA0501181891 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Last week the Sudanese ambassador in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and notes of denouncement and disapproval of an attack against Shaykh Al Nuhayyan and the UAE were lodged with him. They stressed to him that the UAE would not accept such attacks and interference in their internal affairs. Meanwhile, the Sudanese military attache's office was closed and the keys were taken. This means the end of military dealings with Sudan.

The government of the military Islamic Front junta had embarked on a malicious and broad media campaign against the UAE and Zayid Bin-Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan under the pretext that the UAE was giving political and material support to Sudan's opposition, which led to the deterioration of relations. Meanwhile many front elements were discharged there [as heard], and those National Islamic Front elements who have been plotting against the UAE were apprehended.

Tunisia

President Presents Gulf Peace Initiative

LD1501011691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Statement by Abdewahab Abdallah, Tunisian presidential spokesman; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] At the request of His Excellency the President of the Republic Zine el Badine Ben Ali, I have asked you to come here this evening to convey to you the new initiative his excellency put forward in the framework of his constant efforts since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis to find a peaceful solution for keeping the shadow of war away from the area and saving its nations from the horrors of war and destruction.

You remember the various endeavors by his excellency the president since the outbreak of this crisis: first, to contain it within its Arab framework; and second, his initiatives, either put forward by his personal envoys in a number of capitals of the countries concerned with the crisis, or those he raised during his numerous meetings with the envoys he received or via messages he exchanged with a number of world leaders.

You also remember the endeavors he was planning to undertake along with a number of world leaders, especially the nonaligned states, to save the area from the horrors of war and to promote the establishment of security and stability in the area under fraternity and cooperation.

Today, after the grave developments witnessed by the Gulf crisis, his excellency the president is embarking on this new initiative which I have the honor of conveying to you.

His excellency the president of the Republic is following with great concern the developments in the Gulf crisis and the dangers of destructive war, which has posed the worst results it can have on the countries taking part in it as well as on all the states of the area and the entire world.

The president of the republic appreciates the efforts made since the outbreak of this crisis by a number of sides, along with Tunisia, via the initiatives and intensive contacts it conducted with the sides to the conflict and with the rest of the powers connected with this issue to find a peaceful solution relying on international legitimacy.

Responsibility requires that we stress that these efforts have not succeded in attaining the desired objective, namely, to avert war. In light of the grave conditions, which are fraught with danger, and believing in the role of the Security Council and its responsibility to prevent the dangers of all wars and to preserve international peace, in harmony with UN principles and its charters and in accordance with a previous pronouncement by the Security Council itself in a statement on 20 December, his excellency the president has decided that Tunisia approaches the Security Council with the request to approve the convening of an international peace conference this year to study the Middle East question and restore peace, security, and stability there.

This request springs from his excellency's attachment to peace in every situation and his conviction that the Security Council is the last refuge for saving the world from this disaster and being responsibile for the implementation of all the UN resolutions, including those concerning the Gulf crisis, which call for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Iraq's abiding by international legitimacy, and in so doing it might save the world from a tragedy whose consequences cannot be foreseen.

His excellency the president requested the Foreign Ministry to take the necessary measures to present this request.

President Places Security Forces on Alert

LD1401212291 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Pursuant to the Gulf crisis and any repercussions that might develop regarding the internal and external security of the country, and in light of information about the possible exploitation of these conditions by some foreign elements to carry out actions against national and foreign interests in Tunisia, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning presided over a National Security Council meeting at the republican palace in Carthage.

After reviewing developments in the Gulf crisis and in anticipation of any ramifications that might result from

it, the council adopted a number of precautionary measures represented by the following:

1. Placing the national army and the internal security forces on a state of alert in readiness to deal with any aggression against the country;

2. Intensifying the security presence in sensitive points in the country to protect people and installations;

3. Guaranteeing normal commercial and economic activities in the country.

Ben Ali, 'Arafat Discuss Gulf Developments

LD1501000891 Tunis Domestic service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a telephone call from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is now in Baghdad, dealing with the latest developments on the situation in the Gulf region and the need to intensify efforts to tip the scales in favor of peace.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met last Friday with Yasir 'Arafat before the latter's departure for the Iraqi capital.

Ben Ali, U.S. Envoy Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD1201175191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The head of state this morning received the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Robert Pelletreau Jr.

Well-informed sources pointed out that during the meeting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali emphasized the need to exhaust all peaceful means to solve the Gulf crisis and spare the region the dangers of war and destruction.

Foreign Minister Rejects Gulf War, Western Role

PM1401141191 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 14 Jan 91 pp 14-15

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulares by Hamidah Na'na' in Tunis on 23 December 1990: "Arab League Will Not Convene So Long as Gulf Crisis Persists"]

[Excerpts] [Na'na'] You are Tunisian foreign minister in the most difficult and delicate of circumstances: What is the Tunisian position on the changes and developments in the Gulf crisis?

[Boulares] My opinion in that regard is linked to the date on which this interview is to be published (the interview was actually conducted on 23 December 1990), since matters develop and change quickly. So the position cannot be expressed through predictions. In fact, the horizon for finding a peaceful solution seems blocked today. By a peaceful solution I mean any solution not requiring war. Negotiations should be adopted as a principle. And we ask: What kind of peaceful solution will it be? A decisive peaceful solution, as ordered by the United States; or a reconciliatory solution, as hoped for even by some European states; or an Arab-Arab solution, as desired by many Arab states? That is still not known. In fact, matters are still unclear.

[Na'na'] There was special appreciation of the Tunisian position on events—at both the popular and official levels—but we note that there has been a change or a new element in the position. The proof of this is the statements made by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif a few days ago. Is there really a profound change?

[Boulares] No, there has been no change in the Tunisian position. The point is that at every stage of the crisis some world public opinion circles tend to focus on one aspect or another of the position—which may give the impression that there is a change in the Tunisian position. But actually the elements of the Tunisian position on the crisis have not changed. They are: the need to respect the Arab League charter, the need to respect the UN Charter, the need for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the need to contain the issue at the Arab level, and the need to exclude war.

We are against war and for a peaceful solution. And of course, we are against the foreign forces' presence on Arab territory. These are the elements of the Tunisian position. We are also against starving the Iraqi people and the Kuwaiti people, since imposing an embargo on Iraq means imposing an embargo on Kuwait as well. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] So there is no link between the Tunisian position and the Arab League's transfer [to Cairo]?

[Boulares] Not at all. The matter of the Arab League has been meaninglessly linked to the Gulf crisis, as I said in the Tunisian House of Deputies. I said: We regret very much the fact that the Arab League issue has been pushed into that crisis.

The matter of the Arab League should have been forgotten until the end of the crisis. This is because as long as that crisis persists, the Arab League cannot convene and cannot be Arab. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What about your relations with Libya?

[Boulares] You have moved us on to politics now. Anyhow, Libya is our neighbor and we actually believe in the need to build the Arab Maghreb. I also believe that the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] should be strengthened and realized. Moreover, we should seek to avoid disunity in the face of these challenges. Libya is very close to us. Rapprochement with Libya was realized after President Zine El Abidin Ben Ali assumed power. Relations between the two countries had been severed before that. Rapprochement between the two countries is one of the new era's achievements. This is in addition to what we term in the language of relations with Libya the interlinkage of interests. That was achieved even before the establishment of the UMA. Our relations with Libya are not bad, and we are working to develop them.

Bahrain

Defense Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

NC1401200991 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 14 (WAKH)—Bahraini Defense Minister and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Defense Force Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah returned home today from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he visited the BDF's [Bahraini Defense Forces] units there.

He was received by Chief of Staff of the BDF Brigadier Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and top officers.

Kuwait

Amir Gives Statement on Approach of Deadline

LD1401211491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Statement read by Kuwait Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you. I am addressing you on the occasion of the approach of 15 January, the date fixed by the UN Security Council, representing the will of the international community, for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces of occupation from all the territories of the State of Kuwait.

The world is dealing at present with an abnormal and serious phenomenon which threatens the international legitimacy whose bases were laid after World War II and which cost the human race a great deal.

This international order, which comprises all the world's countries, members of the United Nations, has come after great sacrifice, and this explains this coherent international stand against the Iraqi regime which wants to spread an atmosphere of anarchy and demagogy in international relations.

The international community is now going through a difficult test as it works diligently to impose the international will on the aggressor. Hence any retreat or slackening regarding the imposition of that will will be construed by the forces of evil in the world as a weakening of international willpower, which will result in untold consequences and threaten world peace and security. The peace-loving forces have no alternative but to continue with their solidarity to force Iraq to respect the international resolutions, to withdraw its forces quickly from all the territories of the State of Kuwait before the lapse of the deadline fixed by UN Security Council Resolution 678 and, to restore the legitimate Kuwaiti authority to its territories.

Dear brothers and friends, international relations are now going through a dangerous turning point. Undoubtedly, the human community will succeed in controlling the situation and imposing the international will on all those who are tempted to play havoc with world destinies.

It is neither reasonable nor acceptable that a state and a people should be taken as hostage by another country for the realization of objectives in another field or to bolster its capabilities so as to repeat its aggression in the future. Unless this abnormal and grave situation is corrected—which the international community has realized in time, and issued one resolution after another in order to check it—and unless everyone respects the international resolutions in defense of international legitimacy and order, the whole world will face a dark future governed by the law of the jungle, and the redressing of which will then require much greater sacrifices than those required by the present situation.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Leader Says Kuwaits Held in Iraq as 'Shields'

NC1501103391 Paris AFP in English 1916 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Jan 14 (AFP)—About 10,000 Kuwaitis are being held at three sites in Iraq to serve as human shields against attack, a Kuwaiti leader said here Monday.

Iraq started taking Kuwaitis hostage about a week after its August 2 invasion of the emirate, then stopped for a while before resuming the seizures on Saturday, said 'Ali al-Sabah, the governor of Ahmadi, Kuwait's only province.

More than 300 young, healthy Kuwaitis have been taken in the past two days, he said during a press conference here. He could not provide details on the locations, except to say one was near Baghdad.

He said many Kuwaitis were seized along with Westerners, who were eventually all released in early December.

He also said he had no objection to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's remaining in power if his own people supported him, and that while Kuwait would seek reparations from Iraq, it would not seek to punish Mr. Husayn.

"If he is punished, he should be punished by his own people," he said.

In response to questions about plans for democratic reform in Kuwait, Mr. al-Sabah said constitutional reforms are not necessary because there are no mistakes to be reformed, but added that it was up to the national assembly, not him, to examine constitutional revisions.

Asked why Mr. Husayn appeared so defiant before what appeared to be the certain defeat of his military, Mr. al-Sabah said the Iraqi leader is likely to die no matter what he does because his people hate him so much.

"He might as well die, if you like, in honor," he added.

The exiled governor also said since August 1,600 Iraqi spies have entered Saudi Arabia with Kuwaitis and others fleeing the occupied emirate.

They pass themselves off as non-Kuwaitis and non-Iraqis, he added.

At least two high-ranking Saudi officials have denied on previous occasions that any Iraqi spies had tried to cross the border at al-Khafji.

The governor also said that 2,000 Kuwaitis have been killed since August and 100 have been taken prisoner, as opposed to being taken hostage.

About half of the 700,000 Kuwaitis have fled their country and remain in exile, he said.

Oman

Waldheim Says 'Still Chances' for Gulf Peace

NC1401180591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 14 Jan (WAKH)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has stressed that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is the necessary beginning for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East's problems, including the Palestine question.

In a news conference he held in Muscat today, he said there are still chances for more efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

He said he will leave for Jordan to meet with King Husayn for more talks on all dimensions of the current crisis in the region.

Asked whether he has his own initiative on the Gulf crisis, he said: I have no intention of mediating; I exchanged views with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and later today I will hold similar talks with King Husayn.

He said the situation is serious and very critical, and only a last-minute initiative can prevent the eruption of an armed conflagration.

Mr. Waldheim said his talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus dealt with the Gulf crisis, which is one of the most complex world crises since World War II, and means of finding a peaceful solution to this crisis in order to evade its perils.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1512 GMT on 14 January in a Cairo-datelined item also reports, "Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has denied that he intends to initiate mediation efforts in the current Gulf crisis. In a statement prior to his departure from Cairo to Amman this afternoon, he said that he wants to hear Jordanian King Husayn's views on the situation in the region and that afterwards he will see how to deal with the situation.

["Asked about the reason for his visit to Jordan, Waldheim said: 'I know King Husayn well and we have agreed that I visit him to discuss the situation.' Asked why he changed his private plane and decided to board a Royal Jordanian airliner that was awaiting him at Cairo Airport, Waldheim said: 'King Husayn offered to send me his aircraft to travel from Cairo to Amman.' He described this as a 'good gesture' from King Husayn."]

Foreign Affairs Official Returns From Sanaa

NC1101160091 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to the Sultanate from Sanaa today after an official visit to the Republic of Yemen. During the visit, which lasted several days, he delivered a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also held talks with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Aryani on bilateral relations and common issues.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Crisis

LD1401191891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa-ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a cabinet meeting today at al-Yamahah Palace, Riyadh. Following the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that following blessed instructions from King Fahd, the cabinet reviewed reports on major issues, as well as the current political and military developments in the Arab Gulf region up to the holding of today's meeting. Considering this, the cabinet followed with great interest the results of efforts taken by international quarters, the UN secretary-general, senior leaders and officials from Arab, Islamic, and Western countries to search for ways that would guarantee the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of its legitimacy, and consequently the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and troops stationed on the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These efforts seek to spare the Arab region the likely catatrophe of war, its destruction, and the repercussions if such war erupts due to the obstinate stance of the ruler of Iraq, despite all genuine calls and ongoing intensified attempts since the invasion by the Iraqi forces of the State of Kuwait up to this very day.

The information minister went on to say: In this connection, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz informed the cabinet of the outcome of the meetings, talks, and contacts he has been having over the past few days with senior officials and envoys to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Minister Al-Sah'ir added: The custodian of the two holy mosques told the cabinet about the various aspects of the serious crisis facing the Arab region, started by the

treacherous Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait. He empahized all the painful incidents resulting from this aggression, and ended with today's statement from Baghdad which announced to the world Iraq's ruler's insistence on totally rejecting international legitimacy and all efforts and attempts that had been undertaken to implement Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions to liberate Kuwait, restore normality as it was before 2 August 1990, and secure the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Saudi borders.

The information minister said: Within the context of the supervision of the custodian of the two holy mosques, commander in chief of the Saudi Armed Forces, of all measures taken to confront all eventualities, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and the inspector-general, stated that all preparations have been taken at the highest level to defend the homeland and protect its sanctities.

His Royal Highness reiterated his praise for the high morale of the leaders, officers, and members of the Saudi armed forces and also of those from brotherly and friendly forces. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives European Visits, Messages

Kohl Message Delivered

LD1401165891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a written message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Wolfgang Bente, the German ambassador to the kingdom, who was recieved by King Fahd at al-Yamamah Palace today in the presence of the Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Mitterrand Envoy Visits

LD1401151591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God preserve him, has received a message from His Excellency the French President Francois Mitterrand.

The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques by the French president's envoy, Jean Louis Bianco when he was received by the King at his office at al-Salam Palace today.

The audience was attended by Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and Jacques Bernard, French ambassador to the Kingdom. Bianco arrived in Riyadh earlier and was met at King Khalid International Airport by Ibrahim al-'Anqari, private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, the French ambassador to the Kingdom and a representative of the Royal Protocol Department.

Editorial Views Outcome of Geneva Gulf Talks

PM1401095491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 91 p 11

[Editorial: "The World After Geneva"]

[Text] We will not ask what the world looks like before war, but will only say what it looks like after Geneva. This is because, like millions throughout the the world, we want peace—but we want it to be based on respect for Arab, Islamic, and international principles and charters. Furthermore, while a war resembles a vehicle rushing toward an abyss, the continuation of the occupation of Kuwait threatens to drive the region into an endless series of disasters.

The Geneva meeting ended with a clear fact that nobody could argue with: The world has now been able to ascertain two things, namely, the international alliance's resolve to adhere to the Security Council resolutions, the essence of which is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait; and the allied states' determination to enforce these resolutions if Iraq continues its policy of rejection and intransigence.

On the basis of the outcome of the Baker-'Aziz meeting, President George Bush was not exaggerating when he deduced from it a logical outcome that will remain the key to the entire situation until midnight on 15-16 January, namely, that the decision for war or peace is now in the hands of one man—Saddam Husayn.

If the Iraqi president wants peace, the road to it is known and open. It starts with withdrawal from Kuwait and ends with the restoration of the legitimate authorities there.

If the Iraqi president wants war, the road to it is known and open as well—continuing to reject the Security Council resolutions and turning his back on the international community's will.

Yes, this is how the situation appears—very simple, logically, but very ugly in terms of the disastrous consequences that will befall Iraq, first and foremost.

By saying to Iraq what it did, in Geneva, the world did not at all close the door to its or others' demands, regardless of their credibility and seriousness. It emphasized that withdrawal from Kuwait would grant Iraq a reward that it is probably not expecting, namely, that it will not be attacked if it complies with the international will.

By saying to Iraq what it did, in Geneva, the world emphasized, through Baker and others, that the Arab-Israeli issue will head the agenda of international concern after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, and that this concern will materialize in an international conference to be held in the foreseeable future to find a solution to

the issue of the Palestinian people in the context of the growing international detente.

But Iraq still wants to put the cart before the horse insofar as Kuwait remains a hostage or a "guarantee" in its hands until the promise is fulfilled. Was it Kuwait that obstructed a solution to the Palestinian issue? Have the Palestinian people ever made it a condition that Kuwait be invaded as a means of implementing their clear right to self-determination and to establish their own independent state?

The ball is in Saddam's court. It was there on 2 August and will remain there until mid-January.

It is untrue that the Iraqi president is unaware of the intricacies of the international situation and the seriousness of the military deployments that confront him. Nor is it true to say that his aides fear him and tell him only what he wants to hear. The crisis is more than five months old, and whatever could be concealed from him for reasons of fear, ignorance, or collusion could remain concealed for a matter of hours or days, but it is inconceivable that this could continue for weeks or months, in view of the revolution in modern communications.

He knows the real situation and its various aspects, though he does not necessarily understand their meaning and significance. So if he chooses peace by withdrawing, he will do so knowingly and willingly. And if he chooses war, he will do so the same way.

But to inform Saddam Husayn of the real nature of the crisis in its various aspects and of the world's position against him and its determination to continue its confrontation does not at all prevent—but, rather, encourages—all people of good-will in both East and the West, both inside and outside the United Nations, to do everything possible to release the peace option from the jaws of war and to divert the vehicle rushing toward the deep abyss.

So let Perez de Cuellar try, and let others try. What is required in the end is to restore right, so long as the result is a lesson to anyone who allows himself to violate sacrosanct principles and to treat international charters with contempt.

So either there is a peace built on justice or there will be some kind of war.

Yemen

Salih Address Outlines Peace Plan to Council

EA1401230891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has stressed that Yemen will continue to be concerned about peace and will spare no efforts up to the last moment to make every effort to save the region from a disastrous war.

Addressing the Council of Deputies today at the start of the first session of the Council's 1991 second annual convention's first new sitting, he put forward our country's proposed plan for peace in the region, consisting of six points. He said our country was currently conducting intensive contacts on this plan with the parties to the dispute with a view to achieving a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih listed the six points the Republic had proposed to save the region from the catastrophe of war and which should be considered as a peaceful way out of the crisis. The points are:

1. The Iraqi forces are to be withdrawn from Kuwait.

2. Arab and international forces then will take over the area in dispute between Iraq and Kuwait under the supervision of the Arab League and the UN, thus combining the Arab and international solutions.

3. The foreign forces in the region are to be pulled out upon Iraq's acceptance of the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait.

4. The UN Security Council is to commit itself to implementing its resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict by expediting the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East, thereby introducing the linkage with the Palestinian issue. The brother president said: We leave the issue of linkage to the international community and the Security Council.

5. The states which have forces in the region, namely the Gulf and the Peninsula, will pledge not to use force against Iraq.

6. On acceptance of all this by the parties to the dispute, the economic blockade against Iraq shall be ended.

The brother lieutenant general clarified that these ideas had been delivered to the Egyptians, the Americans, the Soviets, the French, the Germans, and the Omanis. The president said: We only delivered them to those who approved of these ideas. [Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 14 Jan 91, citing President Salih's statement ot the Yemeni legislature, adds the following: "We would not have proposed these ideas had everybody not been in favor of them. Even the Americans accepted the ideas. They said: Propose this to Iraq; does Iraq accept them? We decided that the brother prime minister and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister would leave for Baghdad to assert our country's position—the search for a solution to this crisis."]

Assembly Resolution Gives Saddam Full Authority

NC1401160591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The people's representatives have unanimously given leader President Saddam Husayn all constitutional authority to deal with all that is necessitated by the showdown to preserve the rights and dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation.

This was contained in the resolution adopted unanimously by the great people of Iraq. The following is the text of the resolution:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Resolution:

The National Assembly held an extraordinary session on Monday, 14 January 1991, corresponding to 27 Jamada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira. The Assembly reviewed the accelerating events in the Arab Gulf, the Arab region, and the world, especially the threat of aggression by the United States and the forces allied with it against Iraq and the Arab nation. Following the discussions and deliberations by the National Assembly members, the assembly decided on the following: The leader president, may God preserve him, is given all constitutional authority to deal with all that is necessitated by the showdown to preserve the rights and dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Cables Saddam; Demonstrations Planned

NC1401183291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received a cable from the National Assembly at the conclusion of the extraordinary session today. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Mr. Leader President:

It is the will of God and your genuine Iraqi people that the Arab and Islamic nation be tested anew in confronting the biggest challenges in its contemporary history under your brave leadership in defense of the values of heaven and earth, as well as in defense of the principles of the message of our immortal nation.

The forces of despotism and aggression deployed by the United States and its failing allies have come to desecrate the holy lands in the Arabian Peninsula with the nation of the Arabs—embodied by Saddam Husayn's Iraq—as their target, threatening our future in our new age of awakening, and calling for aggression and war. They aim to stop the wheel of development and progress, and to endanger peace in the service of the imperialist and Zionist ambitions and objectives and their agents, such as Husni, Fahd, and others embroiled in treason and disgrace.

The sons of Iraq and the Arab nation, the gathering of Muslims, and the peace-loving people in the world stand beside the Iraq of justice in the face of the advocates of falsehood in confronting the brutal onslaught led by Bush, Zionism, and others from the lowly people—the enemies of God and the people. The sons of Iraq and the Arab nation, the gathering of Muslims, and all peace-loving people call on these parties to retreat from their falsehood and adhere to peace, instead of launching threats of war. Their insistence on launching an aggression against Iraq will have no effect on the will of the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic nation to fight until victory, because the will of God is on our side, history is on our side, and Saddam Husayn is our leader.

In your lofty stance, Your Excellency the President, you have revived the heroism of your great-grandfathers and embodied in your determination and wisdom the characteristics of the righteous caliphs of Muslims. In your steadfastness, you returned the shining history which the nation is reliving, and which it is defending with an iron will on the path of pride and dignity.

Mr. Leader President:

The National Assembly, the representative of the great Iraqi people, has given you all constitutional authority to do all that is required by the duel to defend the homeland and the Arab nation, and to protect the holy places of Arabs and Muslims.

We declare with every determination our support and readiness to fight under your banner to confront any criminal aggression committed by the United States, Zionism, and their allies. At the same time, we renew our loyalty to you as a national symbol and victorious hero on the path of victory. Tomorrow, our people will turn out to declare the pledge of challenge to the victorious leader Saddam Husayn, thus abiding by what God says: "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God has purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise. They fight in His cause, slay, and are slain. A promise binding on Him in truth, through the law, the gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his government than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded. That is the supreme achievement." [Koranic verse]

Saddam Receives 'Arafat, Discusses Crisis

NC1401163191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional developments. His Excellency President Saddam

Husayn affirmed that the Palestine question is the crux of the confrontation between Iraq, all masses of the Arab nation, Muslims, and all well-meaning parties in the world on the one hand and the American aggressiveness which seeks to impose its hegemony on the region and the world on the other. He affirmed that Iraq is determined to crush and to defeat the aggression and is capable of doing so.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed the support of the Palestinian Arab people and their leadership for Iraq in the face of the imperialist-Zionist aggression. He asserted that Palestine and Iraq are standing in the same trench to regain Arab rights and to elevate the status of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Official: U.S. Will Lose if War Breaks Out

OW1401144091

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1210 GMT on 14 January, in its "NHK News 21" program, carries an 11-minute live interview with Naji al-Hadiphi, director of the Information Bureau at the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry. Al-Hadiphi, in the NHK Baghdad studio, answers questions on the Iraqi Government's position on the Gulf crisis relayed via satellite from anchorman Hatsuhisa Takashima in the NHK Tokyo studio.

Asked if Iraq has any intention of compromising with the international community on the issue of withdrawal from Kuwait, al-Hadiphi says: "We cannot compromise on our own territories. The province of Kuwait is our province. It has come back to the motherland, Iraq, and is now part of Iraq—similar to any other province in this country. We cannot compromise on our sovereignty."

He says: "The initiative put forward by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August was that if the other party would like an international solution for the Gulf crisis, we would go for that but apply international law to other cases. The pressing case is the Palestine question. The United States has to pull out of the holy Arab land in Saudi Arabia."

Takashima asks: "The U.S. side says that if a war starts, it would force the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait within several weeks. Do you agree? What would you do? How will the Iraqi Army fight?"

Answering, the Iraqi official says: "This is a plan on paper. Things do not necessarily work as out as planned. The Iraqi Army is very large and strong. The United States and the combined forces have a total of no more than 14 divisions. We have 60 divisions—60 divisions. Our Army is capable of waging ground war; it is backed up by the Iraqi people, as well as Arabs and Muslims. American soldiers, on the other hand, have no cause for which to fight. They have no cause."

He adds: "I do not know if the U.S. side entertains wishful thinking or if its puppets make moves under the delusion of such wishful thinking, but if a war breaks out, they will lose. They can start a war, but I am afraid that they cannot end it. If a war is started, U.S. interests will be heavily impaired, not only in the Arab world but also in the whole world."

Asked if Iraq will make a new proposal and withdraw from Kuwait one or two days after the 15 January deadline as speculated, al-Hadiphi says: "We have no other proposal. The proposal of 12 August is the only proposal from our side. That is our posture. Of course, we desire peace and make efforts to that end. The Iraqi people do the same. But, if the U.S. Government should commit a gross mistake and carry out an act of aggression against Iraq, we would repay it with strong retaliation. We will not tolerate that sort of aggression; we will repulse U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia."

After noting that the United States has rejected the Iraqi position manifested in the 12 August proposal, al-Hadiphi says: "The United States is about to plunge into war and aggression. It is trying to support the Kuwaiti amir's family, that shameless royal family. Israel also has expansionist designs against the Arab world. We must cope with them, too. I will repeat this—we desire peace, but we are prepared to fight against any aggression. President Bush will be full of regret."

Ramadan Affirms 'All-Out' Battle for Palestine

NC1401151291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received Na'im al-Ashhab, secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, and Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the Political Bureau of the party and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that the U.S.-Zionist enmity toward Iraq is caused by Iraq's principled stand on the Palestine question, by its firm adherence to the Palestinian people's rights, and also by its belief that their usurped lands in addition to the other occupied Arab lands should be liberated. He referred to the remarks made by leader President Saddam Husayn on 2 April when he said that Iraq would burn half of the Zionist entity if it were to launch an aggression against any Arab state. He also affirmed that Palestine will be liberated and that the battle will be an all-out one. He asserted that all the Arab objectives which the Arabs and Muslims have been struggling to achieve for many long years will be achieved in this battle.

The delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party relayed to mujahid President Saddam Husayn the greetings of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied

territories and their pride in his wise and courageous leadership which will restore to the Palestinians their usurped and forfeited rights and which will also liberate all the occupied Arab territories from the Zionists, the Americans, and their agents, the Arab rulers. The delegation also affirmed that the Palestinians stand in the same trench with their Iraqi brothers and on the front line in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation against the U.S. aggressors. Furthermore, it lauded leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August which is based on international legitimacy, justice, and right.

Kuwait 'Governorate' Commander, Unit Leaders Meet

NC1401162291 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 14, INA—Masses of the Governorate of Kuwait stressed their unlimited readiness to defend the land and sovereignty of Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn against the forces of evil and aggression.

During rallies organized throughout the governorate and attended by Governor of Kuwait 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, the masses expressed lofty pride at the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in defending the Arab nation dignity against the American-Atlantic concentration.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Popular Army of the Governorate of Kuwait held several meetings with leaders of the Popular Army units there on their preparedness to defend the land of Iraq.

Air Force Commander Says Units 'Fully Prepared'

NC1401231491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2213 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The Air Force and air defense forces have completed training Air Force fedayeen units to carry out sorties against designated targets in the air, on land, and at sea.

Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and air defense, said in a cable to President Saddam Husayn that the Air Force and air defense force have drawn up an integrated plan for the big battle, "the mother of battles," to defend Iraq and to declare holy jihad to achieve inevitable victory against the forces of infidility and darkness.

He added that all members of the Air Force and air defense force, backed by the great Iraqi people, have vowed to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the homeland and for God, their principles, and great Iraq. They all, without exception, are ready for the great jihad and for sacrifice.

The Air Force and air defense force commander said that the fedayeen units are now fully prepared and are awaiting the signal to write the glorious history of the Arabs and humanity and to respond to any aggression against the sanctities of Iraq immediately.

The Air Force commander concluded his cable by saying: On my own behalf and on behalf of the air eagles and members of the Air Force and air defense we pledge to pave the way to victory, Arab dignity, and the glory of great Iraq with pure blood.

Saddam Sends 'Open Message' to King Fahd

NC1401214791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 14 Jan 91

["Text" of "open message" from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This is an open message to King Fahd: Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished: For falsehood is by its nature bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia: At an early stage of the Gulf crisis, specifically on 15 August 1990, corresponding to 24 Muharram 1411 Hegira, I wrote to you warning of the dangers of the pass to which you have driven matters. I called on you to draw back from this pass before you went too far, because once you start, it would burden you and make you continue along the deviant course in the hope of achieving premeditated goals with your new cousins who have come from the West and their Zionist allies. Five months have elapsed since that date and it has become clear to you, and to all people of the Arabian Peninsula, which you called Saudi Arabia after your family's name, that claims that Iraq had expansionist ambitions toward Arab land in the Arabian Peninsula are false. You know and, more importantly, the people in your kingdom know that the peninsula was never part of the region of Iraq, just as the region of Iraq was never part of it. They were united in the same political framework only by the principles of monotheism and by the course of believing the Arabism of our ancestors, who left us a legacy of deep fraternity between the Iraqis and Arabs in your kingdom based on deep pan-Arab and spiritual bonds.

I say that now that all claims have been shown to be false and now that everyone, near and far, has realized the seriousness of the course you have embarked on in bringing the infidel forces to the land of the sanctities of Arabs and Muslims, is it not time to look carefully to prevent continued persistence on this deviant path to which you were lead by satanic propensities before you make the people in the Arabian Peninsula, in Iraq, and in all the Arab and Islamic nation bear the consequences of this horrible propensity for evil hysteria after Bush and his little agents infused your hearts with evil pretexts? They made you embark on the evil which the holy land and its noble people have witnessed. The relationship among the sons of the same family, where infidel foreigners occupy the land, places sanctities in a situation that does not satisfy God nor any ardent Muslim. Let the purpose of the villain be (?cursed).

King Fahd, you know—and if you don't, others do—that the cause of many misfortunes of a group—be it a family, clan, or state—is that a member of this group, who holds a post in which he has a dominant voice in decisionmaking, is weak or a villian; he tramples on his fortune instead of uplifting it and thus raising the fortune of the group with clear conscience and fear of God. Many of the factors to enhance the fortune of a group are based on a clear conscience, a clean mind, good deeds, and courage that is not secured or protected by foreigners, but is sought in accordance with the values of Arabism and Islam. Has the lot of the unfortunate become so bad as to make you control them with such a stand?

Almighty God thoroughly knows the invisible. Your wise people can answer this by adding up the tangible and visible evidence now that the whole game has been exposed and the intentions and lies of the liars who brought the American forces and their allies to the land of sanctities on the pretext that Iraq intended to invade Saudia Arabia have been uncovered.

Everything has become clear to them. They must have recalled Iraq's stands over all the past years. Now that sentiments have calmed down and time has provided the opportunity for truth to speak against falsehood, their answer is precise and sincere: Why should Iraq attack us when we have no business with them that would require this? Apart from all other considerations, had this been Iraq's intention, why did it not attack you before the foreign forces came to these holy places? What clarifies the matter more is the unequivocal evidence provided by the transformation of the slogan of bringing in the foreigner to defend Saudi Arabia into another slogan: the indefinite stay of the foreigner on the soil of the sanctities and providing him with the faithful's funds so that he can be in a position to attack Iraq. This is your motto and your current course. Woe to what you are doing.

We say these words before the people of the Kingdom, and more important, we say them as a duty we carry out before God and the nation. We are now at a time when things are being driven in the direction you have chosen. Many people are awaiting their fate a few days from a major military confrontation. In this confrontation, all honor will go to the honest believers, who believe in God and his messenger and who gave faith its due. All disgrace will go to those lying and false people who were deceived and who deceived others until they fell into the abyss of high treason against men's values, human relations, nationalist values, the criteria for ties among the sons of the same nation, and Islam's values.

You may use as a pretext the tune which your media have never stopped playing—the tune of Kuwait and the al-Sabah family. You and many people in the Kingdom know, as do we, how your words are full of hypocrisy when you talk about the principles of Arab ties and your concern for them in light of your actions which have driven the people of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to the brink of the abyss. In any case, who gave you the authority to plunge the region and the world into such a war? Are these the same stands that guided your behavior toward the Lebanese people in al-Ta'if and the Palestinian people and that guides it on other issues? Are the people of the Kingdom your personal property so that you can shed their blood from a position that lacks any trace of honor or religion? You know that should the confrontation occur and should the Kingdom be its arena, hundreds of thousands of Saudis from Najd and Hejaz will die. You know, or rather I suppose that you know, that this war, should it break out, will have its own results and the Iraqis' sacrifice for it will be a ladder to heaven and to the peaks of glory. Where will the ladder of the Saudis' losses lead and why?

Nevertheless, do you really want to know the extent of Iraq's readiness to offer you legitimate guarantees so that whoever wants to be reassured in your country can be and so that God will decide what he wants and what pleases him? If you want this, we are fully prepared to offer additional guarantees which reassure souls searching for reassurance in bilateral relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, something similar to what we offered in our letter of 15 August 1990, a letter to which you did not respond.

For the Arabs you aborted the chance for a serious dialogue on the level of the four-party summit which we proposed be held in Saudi Arabia in June 1990. That summit was to comprise Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the then ruler of Kuwait to remove the program of sabotage and conspiracy which was mangling Iraq and its economy, as well as other states. For the Arabs you also aborted the chance for a five-party dialogue on the summit level, which it had been decided would be held on 5 August 1990. You have thus brought matters to the present pass. Will you persist in your course or will you pause, engage in self-critcism, and then begin to work without conditions now you have found out that you cannot impose conditions—neither you nor those whose help you sought or who sought your help?

This is our position so that those who intend to retreat may retreat from a course which only leads to failure but which may cover the ground with chaste blood which will mix with bad, mean, and atheistic blood.

King Fahd, in addition to the fact that your actions are in contravention of God's law and the teachings of his great Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be with him, the occupation has exhausted the budget of Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. The poor and deprived who die of hunger in the Arab and Islamic nations need these funds. Had you spent these funds on them for God's sake, this would have been a path to virtue, raising the status of the believers and bringing them closer to God Almighty. Despite the immense losses which these expenses have entailed for the people of Saudi Arabia and the nation, I hope you realize some aspects of your negative dealing with the sons of the nation while you pump these funds into the pockets of the middlemen of politics and the merchants of war.

Perhaps you remember that the Iraqis rebuilt Arab Basra after the end of the war with Iran. Basra was one of the bastions which spread the Arabs' great mission of faith in the past and continues to do so now. Thanks to its steadfastness Basra protected young shepherds, as you used to say to envoys sent to you. I say perhaps you remember that you only gave 11,534,158 dinars in the form of building materials as a contribution to rebuild Basra. You gave nothing to dear al-Faw, which was destroyed by war and in which no building remained, except some equipment valued at less than 1 million dinars. The Croesus of Kuwait only gave it $10 million. The devil has controlled you so much so that it gives on your behalf to the forces of treachery, ignorance, and atheism with this harmful generosity from the funds of the people and nation.

What remains for me to say to you and to others, out of my concern for the wealth of the people in Saudi Arabia and the wealth of the nation, is that what you are spending directly or indirectly now will not be the end of the account between you and those who are benefiting from the payments. Your people after you will be presented with lists of expenses consisting of all the weapons and equipment that will be consumed by their armies on land, at sea, and in the air and all the visible and invisible expenses for their headquarters and lines of communications and what they have spent and will spend on information and policy, whether such expenditure is real and visible or fabricated and invisible. You will be pursued with lists of expenses by all the companies and states which have suffered as a result of this crisis. The speculators on the stock exchange and the banks that will lose in such circumstances or that will claim to have lost from this crisis will do the same.

The blow and burden will be greater to your people's wealth when war breaks out, as the cost of every piece of military equipment we destroy or that is consumed by the war will be charged to you. It is natural that the price for every American and Englishman who dies or is maimed or wounded in the war will be different from the price for an Arab, because they are worth more than an Arab, or so your evil allies think. You will continue to be milked until your milk runs dry, and not as you said in a recorded cassette on 9 July 1990 that the Baghdad summit in 1978 had milked you because you had paid at it for Palestine and for the front which at that time was meant to be the front for steadfastness in the face of the collapse caused by the ill-famed Camp David agreement.

Will you listen to the voice of truth and the calls for awareness and reason before it is too late, or will you stand in line to be milked so that the new generosity and hospitality can continue?

On this opportunity we must say that Iraq is linked with you by many pacts and agreements. Some of these fall within the framework of sovereignty and rights and some others within the framework of nonaggression, the nonuse of force, and noninterference in internal affairs. We have honestly and faithfully abided by all these pacts. We have not been blamed for violating any of them before. These pacts and agreements were worked out and signed within the framework of the desire to create a brotherly atmosphere and relations which, through their interaction, would provide support to the nation and to the values which God wants and approves of and within a framework that signifies peace and not war.

Now that you closed the oil pipeline which passes through your territory to the Red Sea, thus inflicting considerable economic losses on Iraq, and did so in order to starve the people of Iraq and impose on it a blockade which is tantamount to a declaration of war, we hold you responsible for anyone who dies in Iraq as a result of the shortage of medicine and food. We hold you equally responsible for whoever is killed and martyred on the battlefield.

Hence, in addition to your general responsibility as the ruler of the Kingdom over which you preside, you bear personal responsibility in this. On the same footing of accountability before God and before the well-intentioned individuals and those with self-respect stand all those who pushed you to advocate this hostile policy, expressed support for you, or still support you in this policy. Your bringing the armies of infidels to the lands of Najd and Hejaz and your participation in transforming their task from one of defending Saudi Arabia to one of attacking Iraq is a declaration of war against Iraq.

Any argument otherwise does not stand to reason. Laws and norms also corroborate this. Likewise, the heavenly creeds revealed by the one God testify to this. In view of this situation, we regard your position and measures as tantamout to a declaration of war against Iraq. Iraq will reserve its rights in light of this position. We also regard your position as tantamout to practically abandoning all agreements and treaties signed between us, unless you can prove clearly that you have done otherwise and provide evidence of this, that has the same force as the declared evidence we have against you.

God is forgiving and merciful. Moreover, the well-meaning, faithful, and truthful people who are imbued with the values of Arabism and Islam and who have shown themselves to be individuals who have faith in these values and are sincere in their application are capable of bearing the consequences of mistakes committed by those who once erred. They are ready to view all that has happened as a disturbing nightmare that does not preclude the normalization of ties between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and putting them in the proper perspective in a manner that precludes aggression, attacks, and the presence of a foreigner to arbitrate between us. The book of the almighty and wise God should be used to arbitrate between us. As for the level of the fraternal pan-Arab and spiritual links existing between our people, they must be based on the values of virtue, solidarity, and amity. The only thing demanded outside the context of bilateral ties is the rapid departure of the foreigner. Then, you may bring in whichever you prefer from among the armies of the faithful Arabs which enjoy your trust.

We know the sons of the Arabian Peninsula upon whose shoulders the message of Islam was built, those who vindicated this message using their swords and spears when the infidels attempted to oppose the Islamic mission, to be a courageous and tested people with noble sentiments who do not fear the injustice of the unjust even if their leader is not all he should be. Why then did you humiliate yourself and disgrace your family, relying on the delusion which you nursed? Was it because you were the victim of satanic whims or because you obeyed the foreigner? You are well aware that the Iraqis are brothers of the sons of the Eastern Province, Mecca, Medina, Riyadh, Jeddah, al-Ta'if, and all Arab cities in Najd and Hejaz. If Iraq frightens you, I am aware and sure that the sons of Najd and Hejaz are zealous men who cannot allow themselves protected by the women of the infidels and aggressors in the ranks of Bush's army.

If what you seek is to cause evil to befall Iraq to serve the evil sentiments and the idols of the White House as well as the criminal Zionists, then God reigns supreme over all. He will help us make fire, in the name of God, to consume the infidels as well as the treacherous and the unjust, the servants of the foreigner who have gone astray in the pursuit of devilish ways. To vindicate these values, we will have the support and backing not only of the noble sons of Saudi Arabia, but also of all faithful Muslims as well as of all well-meaning people around the world.

To conclude my letter to you, do you really have no shame, if you are an Arab and a Muslim, before your people and the faithful, considering that, using the wealth of Saudi Arabia, you amassed against us people from all parts of the world without succeeding in having the armies of infidelity and vice shake the foundation of faith in the hearts of the Iraqis? In contrast, you had a sleepless night when you were told that five Iraqi tanks were on their way to cross Iraq's borders in the direction of Hafr al-Batin on 19-20 August 1990. These tanks were discovered to be eight tanks stuck in the sand and abandoned by their occupants, who belonged to the army of the Croesus. They were shown to be non-Iraqi tanks. In case you do not know, you look miserable and disgraceful when you gather armies from all parts of the world, including the armies of countries which call themselves superpowers and big powers. This by itself, regardless of anything else, is a source of pride for every honorable Saudi who takes pride in this faithful and Islamic and Arab army, the valiant Iraqi Army, which fears neither the idol nor the new false gods, now that it has become a symbol of pride and a gathering defying falsehood as viewed by all Muslims and Arabs and also by all well-meaning individuals around the world.

Will an individual from the Al Sa'ud dynasty see this noble people, the great Iraqi people, and the valiant army of the nation in a way that is different from your miserable view? Tomorrow will bring news of this.

God is great. And may the lowly be accursed!

[Signed] The slave of God, Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 27 Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 14 January 1991 A.D.

RCC Vice Chairman Reacts to Pope's Message

NC1401215591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Commenting on the message addressed by His Holiness the Pope on 13 January 1991, 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has stated the following:

We welcome the spirit expressed in His Holiness the Pope's message, particularly his assertion of the need to implement the principles of peace and justice in all cases, as well as his reference to the tribulations of the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate rights.

The RCC vice chairman said: Iraq and the Arab nation honestly and deeply believe in the principles of peace and justice, which are the essence of Islam, and which are called for by all heavenly religions, and which were preached by the messengers of Almighty God.

The RCC vice chairman said: We hope that in his call for peace and justice, His Holiness the Pope will focus on the great satan, Bush, who calls for war and aggression and rejects the principles of truth, justice, and peace.

The RCC vice chairman affirmed that President Saddam Husayn is a man who believes in peace, justice, and truth. He struggles for the sake of these objectives and the sublime values that will certainly triumph, God willing, as they have triumphed throughout the long history of mankind.

"Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brains, and behold, falsehood doth perish." [Koranic verse]

Further Reportage on Libyan Official's Visit

Jallud Relays Al-Qadhdhafi Message

NC1401171791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Today His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him.

Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud relayed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional developments, the common issue between the two fraternal countries, and the position on America's aggressiveness and its troop buildups and fleets which are

deployed in the region to terrorize the nation, to rob it of its will, and to plunder its wealth.,

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Says Libya Preparing Initiative

NC1401211791 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14 (AFP)—Libya is preparing a peace initiative to avert war in the Gulf in cooperation with Arab countries and European leaders, Tripoli's No. 2 leader 'Abd-al- Salam Jallud said here Monday after talks with President Saddam Husayn.

"Libya, in collaboration with several Arab countries and some European leaders, is currently working on a peace initiative to avert war in the Gulf," he said. He did not elaborate.

At a press conference here Major Jallud also urged the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, to "recognise that the Gulf crisis is purely an Arab affair."

"The international community must give Arabs a chance to reflect on the means of securing a peaceful Arab settlement," he said.

The European Community has refused any role in a settlement and urged Arab states to find a solution to the crisis at a meeting Monday in Brussels.

Earlier, Major Jallud had talks with President Husayn and handed him a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Major Jallud arrived here Sunday after a brief stopover in Amman during which he also handed King Husayn a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and is also expected to visit Iran on a similar mission, according to the Iranian news agency.

The colonel is proposing a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

Libya has denounced Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but it has also been highly critical of the U.S-led military buildup in the region.

Calls for Arab Solution, Departs

NC1501000891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2255 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, has affirmed that the entire Arab nation today stands with Iraq and its people in their resistance to American aggression. Speaking at a news conference he held today, Jallud said that the Gulf issue has become an Arab issue, and the international community must give the Arabs and their leaders a chance to find an Arab solution to this issue.

He noted that the international community must seek balanced solutions to all issues in the region, affirming that Libya does not accept the existence of two standards in the implementation of international legitimacy. He called on the UN Security Council member states, the international community, and the United States to abandon their double standards in dealing with the region's issues.

He said that the Arabs want international legitimacy provided it is applied to all, noting in this regard that an economic blockade must be imposed on the Zionist entity.

Maj. Jallud said that the war decision in the Arab Gulf region is an American decision. He called on the UN Security Council member states and the international community to recognize that the Gulf issue is an Arab issue and that in order to serve peace the international community must adopt the Arab solution to this issue.

Major Jallud left Baghdad following a one-day visit.

Further Reportage on Daniel Ortega's Visit

Blames Gulf Stalemate on U.S.

PA1201150791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0811 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (EFE)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has stated in this capital that it is not important who might win a war, but who will defeat peace.

Daniel Ortega, who is being accompanied by former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, said during a news conference on 11 January that he will be in Baghdad long enough to speak with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Ortega noted that he has no specific proposals to offer.

Ortega, who on 11 January initiated his third visit to Iraq over the past three months, cautioned: The situation is getting worse and it is necessary for those who want to avoid war to act firmly. The former Nicaraguan president criticized the United States and held it responsible for a good share of the injustices that have been committed in this part of the world.

He stated: It is unrealistic to want to resolve the conflict by demanding Iraq's capitulation. The problem, Ortega added, must be treated responsibly and comprehensively to bring about a global solution and avoid war.

The Sandinist leader indicated that this conflict is one more manifestation of the North-South confrontation. We cannot ask President Saddam Husayn for more flexibility than what he has already shown, Daniel Ortega has told EFE.

Following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz made known a flexible and responsible Iraqi position, Ortega stated. He added: The intransigent position is on the other side.

The Middle East is a region filled with irregular situations and any serious proposal should take into consideration the resulting illegal situations, but the United States wants the capitulation of Iraq, Ortega stated.

Ortega accused the United States of having permitted and supported unjust situations in the region for 40 years and of having shielded Israel to allow it to disregard UN Security Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, Miguel d'Escoto said that the Nicaraguan effort in the region is not just a Latin American contribution to the solution of the Gulf crisis because, he said, in addition to Latin America, we are human beings interested in peace and we favor a peace that benefits everyone the same. We have drafted our proposal in coordination with Europeans, Asians, and citizens from other parts of the world.

Says U.S. Resolution 'Unacceptable'

PA1301142091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1313 GMT 13 Jan 91

["Text" of communique signed by Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra in Baghdad on 13 January]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] delegation, headed by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, which is currently in Baghdad, Iraq, hereby informs the people of Nicaragua and the international community that Commander Ortega met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 12 January, here in Baghdad. While they were engaged in broad discussion of the critical situation in Persian Gulf, the U.S. Congress debated and ultimately approved a resolution in favor of war.

At the conclusion of his meeting with President Husayn, Commander Ortega told the international press that it is unacceptable that while heads of state, political leaders, the international community, and even the people of the United States are striving for peace, and while initiatives to find a peaceful solution to the crisis are being promoted, the U.S. Congress approves a resolution permitting war, something that is in violation of international law and shows outright disrespect for the United Nations and its Security Council and the peace mission UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is conducting in Baghdad.

Commander Ortega added that the approval by the U.S. Congress of the resolution permitting war constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights [words indistinct] and an expression of total contempt for the peace efforts currently being undertaken. Since his arrival in Baghdad, Commander Ortega has met with PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, and, as previously stated, with President Husayn. At this time, efforts for peace are continuing to prevent the outbreak of war and to achieve a peaceful solution to the area conflicts.

From Baghdad, Commander Ortega calls on the international community, and especially the people of the United States, to undertake all possible efforts and actions to avoid a war that will have terrible consequences for all of mankind, inflicting sorrow and death on thousands, including U.S. citizens.

Tomorrow, 14 January, and for as many days as necessary, the FSLN delegation will continue to pursue all possible efforts and actions with the Iraqi leaders and heads of state and political leaders of the international community who are interested in contributing to a peaceful solution that will prevent war and its aftermath of sorrow for mankind.

Hopes for Peaceful Solution

PA1401130491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1201 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Daniel Ortega has sent a report from Iraq on the peace efforts being made to avert war in the Persian Gulf. The report was sent from Baghdad, capital of Iraq, where we are actively working for peace in view of the serious threat of war in the region. Such a war would bring disastrous consequences, not only to this zone, but to the rest of the world, including our country—Daniel Ortega's initial statements from Baghdad.

Ortega has held meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, and Dr. (Faoul Haman), member of the Ba'th Party of Iraq. We are actively working to contribute toward a peaceful solution to the conflict at a moment when actions throughout the world are directed at preventing a war and toward achieving peace, the report by former President Ortega states. This country is under the threat of war from the leaders of the U.S. Government, who have decreed at the UN Security Council that as of 15 January there is an obligation to launch a war against Iraq. The situation is delicate. I am hopeful and optimistic that our struggle for peace will not be in vain, Ortega states. We will remain in Iraq to exert whatever efforts are necessary to continue working with the Iraqi Government and other political leaders and heads of state who are visiting Iraq for the purpose of contributing toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Daniel Ortega adds: We hope that, although it has the support of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Government will spare the loss of lives, sorrow, and sacrifice for the countries of this region and [words indistinct].

Departs Baghdad 14 Jan

NC1501001291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2250 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening after a four-day visit to Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Yemeni Prime Minister Arrives; Received by Saddam

NC1401163691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the fraternal Republic of Yemen, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation comprising Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs, and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

In a statement to INA, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said he brings the greetings of Yemen—leadership and people—to the fraternal Iraqi people and their wise leadership. He added that he will hold consultations with Iraqi officials on developments in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf and on means of resolving them through peaceful means. He stressed the need for the entire international community to display a commitment to implement the UN resolutions and international legitimacy on the basis of uniform standards.

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas stressed the need to spare the region the dangers of hegemony and foreign domination, to protect the Arab nation's resources and pan-Arab gains, and to establish the strongest ties among its countries to serve its sons and bolster joint Arab cooperation.

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister; a number of cabinet ministers; the Yemeni ambassador in Baghdad and embassy staff.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1557 GMT on 14 January adds in a Baghdad-datelined item: "His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today received Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the fraternal Republic of Yemen, and the delegation accompanying him. Abu-Bakr al-'Attas conveyed to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn a fraternal message from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressing the depth and strength of the fraternal ties existing between the two countries and their common struggle against the imperialist threats targeting the Arab nation, its security, and its existence." The item also notes that the meeting "was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Yemeni ambassador in Baghdad."]

Makes Press Statement

AB1401191791 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to the fraternal Republic of Iraq within the framework of our country's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He was met on arrival at the airport by brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier; a number of brother ministers and officials; and Muhammad Abdallah Shami, our country's ambassador to Baghdad, as well as the embassy staff.

After arrival, he made a statement to the press, saying: I am pleased to be here in Baghdad, the capital city of al-Rashid, the city of peace, to convey the greetings of the sons of the Yemeni Republic, their leadership, government, and people to the fraternal people of Iraq and their political leadership. In continuation of the efforts since the beginning of the crisis to find a just and peaceful solution, I shall be conducting consultations with the brother officials in fraternal Iraq on the critical circumstances affecting the peninsula and the Gulf region and ways of overcoming the problems peacefully so as to avert the woes of war and destruction, which would render the Arab nation the first loser.

We have great confidence and hope in the wisdom of the Iraqi leadership and its real desire to find a just solution for the Gulf crisis and to eliminate all centers of tension in the Arab region as a whole. We in the Yemeni Republic will spare no efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He also stressed the need for the international community as a whole to apply international legitimacy and UN resolutions as a whole, regardless of the date and place of their implementation. He said that this, in our view, is the ideal method of ending the present crisis, securing the Gulf and the peninsula from foreign hegemony and domination, preserving the Arab nation's resources and gains, and establishing firm economic and political relations between the Arab countries based on confidence, cooperation, and a single destiny.

The delegation accompanying the prime minister comprises brothers Brigadier Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy premier for internal affairs; Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, the foreign minister; and a number of other officials.

The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers left Sanaa this morning. He was seen off by brother Brigadier Salih Ubayd Ahmad, deputy premier for defense affairs and security; a number of brother ministers; and 'Abd al-Husayn Rafi'i, the ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to our country.

Algeria's Ben Bella Arrives, Lauds Iraqi Position

NC1401173691 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14, INA—Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella arrived in Iraq today on a several-day visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Ben Bella extolled the brave Iraqi positon on the Atlantic-American aggression, and said that this stand is one of wisdom and dignity toward the Arab nation.

Saddam Receives Tunisian Party Leader

NC1401173991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Rachid Ghanouchi, president of the Tunisian Renaissance Party.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

UK Greens Praise 'Sincere' Iraqi Peace Efforts

NC1401202891 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14, INA—Mrs. Susan Dustin, official in charge of Middle East affairs at the British Greens Party, said no real peace could be achieved in the Middle East without a serious settlement of the Palestine issue.

She told INA that the right of the Palestinian people to self-rule over their occupied land must be endorsed in order to continue peaceful efforts through dialogue and negotiations to find a lasting peace in the region.

The Greens Party leader praised Iraq's peaceful and sincere efforts to find a settlement to all problems in the region.

Opposition Against Husayn, Western Intervention

AU1401221591 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 14 Jan 91 p 7

["Abbreviated text" of statement by Iraqi opposition group called Group of Iraqi Democrats; date and place not given: "For a Peaceful Solution;"]

[Text] The Iraqi opposition is divided—not only those in exile in other Arab countries but also those in exile in Western Europe. And at home it cannot escape the grip of the intelligence services. This makes Iraqi opposition members abroad careful; observations and reprisals against relatives in Iraq are feared. Only since the escalation of the crisis, which has been caused by Saddam Husayn, have they started to express their views. The "Group of Iraqi Democrats," which leans toward liberal views, comes to conclusions, the (abbreviated) text of which we publish here.

The United States and its allies want to prevent by all means the emergence of a regional big power, which might contest the West's right to dominate the Middle East.

Furthermore, Kuwait's conquest uncovered the weakness of the conservative Gulf states. Ruled by a few families, these states are full of contradictions and are vulnerable from the inside and from the outside. They see their rule safeguarded only by the presence of foreign armed forces.

The sending of U.S. and other Western troops is justified by referring to the "defense of an occupied country." Sometimes, however, the background is mentioned, namely the defense of "our oil."

The United States itself is waging an open policy of aggression in the so-called Third World. After the disappearance of the other superpower from the map of world politics and the decline of U.S. economy, U.S. policy has become even more unscrupulous. What it wants is the direct rule over the oil wells.

The war of the Western states in the Middle East is being psychologically prepared. The evil is sought among the Arabs and the Muslims. Their culture and their history are being defamed. The struggle against imperialist exploitation is called "the act of fanatics."

We, who understand ourselves as part of the Iraqi opposition against Saddam Husayn's regime and who are struggling for the abolition of the dictatorship in Iraq, are against any kind of foreign intervention in the Middle East. We reject the UN resolutions, which are aimed at starving our people. We are against any kind of military solution to the problem and for a solution within the framework of the Arab League. Our demand for a democratic Iraq can be implemented only by the Iraqi people themselves. Foreign intervention means new enslavement for our people.

Therefore, we demand:
—the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Gulf region and the Middle East;
—the right to self-determination for the Kuwaiti people without any foreign interference;
—the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait;
—a peaceful solution to the Kuwait problem, democracy for Iraq, and autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan.

U.S., Allies' Interests Threatened 'Everywhere'

NC1501115291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that when the aggressors begin their aggression, they will face a wise and experienced Iraqi leadership and an

army with acknowledged faith, efficiency, and technically advanced weapons. Some of these weapons are known to the evil coalition, and others are not.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that only Iraq will direct the methods, instruments, and magnitude of the forces to take part in the confrontation because Iraq has specified the historic objectives that bring happiness to the hearts of the believers. At the top of these objectives is the liberation of the holy places in Mecca, the burial place of Prophet Muhammad [Medina], and holy Jerusalem.

The paper affirms that if the evil gathering led by Bush believes that it can start an aggression against Iraq, the factors for ending this battle will lie in Iraq's strong hands because it is Iraq only who will dictate the place of the confrontation in an arena that will cover the Middle East and other areas.

The newspaper indicates that when Iraq wrenched one of its historical rights and restored dear Kuwait, it was aware of the terrible and disturbing results of this action for the U.S. Administration, its ally the Zionist entity, and all the opportunistic regimes of treason, plotting, and corruption.

The paper says that for a long time we have accurately calculated the aggressive intentions being displayed by the Bush administration and the Zionist entity's overt and covert threats.

The paper stresses that if the evil ones believe they have a superiority with electronic power or sophisticated equipment, Iraq in the mother of battles has on its side something greater than the entire evil gathering—God Almighty. In addition, on Iraq's side is the faithful gathering of Arabs and Muslims who are ready and prepared to be one of Iraq's long arms that can reach everywhere America and its allies have interests and facilities.

The paper indicates that the Iraqis have retrieved their first right to Kuwait which has become not merely an Iraqi province but also an Arab symbol of confrontation. The paper says the Arabs adhere to this objective and will not go back on it, let it go, or allow anybody to take it away from them. It says the Iraqis will not allow anyone to bargain over this objective or over any of the Arab and Muslim rights sought in the mother of battles, including restoring Palestine, crushing the invaders' heads, and ending their evils.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper says that the faithful gathering will be shadowed by the banner of truth and open victory carried by great leader Saddam Husayn—a banner embroidered with the phrase God is great.

'Peace Ship' Ibn Khaldoon Docks at Umm Qasr

NC1501035391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2228 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Basra, 14 Jan (INA)—The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon anchored at Umm Qasr port in the Governorate of al-Basrah today at the end of its peaceful and humanitarian voyage which was organized by the Arab Women's Federation under the slogan "food and medicine are everyone's right." The ship, which began its voyage in Algiers on 6 December, was accorded a big official and popular reception at which 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the Ba'th Organization in the South; 'Abdallah 'Ajran, al-Basrah governor; popular organizations; and students took part. [passage omitted]

Accord on Visits to Holy Places Signed With Iran

NC1501035191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2218 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Iraq and Iran today signed a agreement on the exchange of visits to the holy places in the two neighboring countries.

Riyad al-Qaysi, director of the Foreign Ministry's international organizations and conferences department, signed for Iraq while Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri, director general of Gulf department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, signed for Iran.

The agreement, which is within the framework of normalizing and consolidating relations between the two neighboring countries, will take effect one month from the date of its signing.

President Saddam Husayn issued instructions two days ago that the as yet unratified agreement between the two countries on the exchange of visits to the holy places was to be implemented immediately, without waiting for the ratification procedures.

The Iranian delegation led by Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri left Baghdad today after a two-day visit.

Ibrahim Receives Islamic Conference Participants

NC1201061491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has received a number of personalities participating in the international Islamic popular conference in Baghdad.

He received Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, Jordanian minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs; Yasin 'Umar al-Imam, member of the Sudanese National Islamic Front command; Majid Khalifah, Jordanian minister of Justice; (Shaykh 'Azzuz Benhudda), deputy leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front; 'Ali al-Faqir, member of the Jordanian parliament; Shaykh Rashid Ghannouchi,

leader of the Tunisian al- Nahdah Party; and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Jordanian minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

The RCC vice chairman praised the good efforts made by the participants in the international Islamic popular conference to bolster joint Islamic action to confront the U.S. and Zionist schemes that aim to humiliate the Arabs and Muslims and desecrate their sanctities.

The personalities saluted the courageous stand of struggle adopted by Iraq's leaders and people to confront the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy and liberate the Muslim sanctities from the desecration of the greedy invaders.

Reporter Sees No Hysteria, Soldiers Confident

AU1401132691 Vienna KURIER in German 14 Jan 91 p 3

[Karl Wendl report: "Baghdad: We Will Not Capitulate"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] There seems to be no "war euphoria" in Baghdad. In a telephone interview with KURIER, the Spanish journalist Pepe Cordero, who has been staying in Baghdad for the past five days, stated: "The kebab restaurants in the streets of Baghdad are as full as usual. It is true that tension can be felt in the bazaars, but there can be no talk of a hysteric fear of a war. This is also due to an insufficient flow of information in Iraq," the journalist stressed. Whereas the actual size of the international army deployed in Saudi Arabia is shown every day in Jordan and the other neighboring countries, Iraqi television seldom carries reports of this kind.

In Jordan, television viewers are even informed on protective measures in the event of a war. They are told how to use gas masks. Window sealings against poison gas are recommended, and instructions like "black out your apartment in the event of an air raid" cause fear and panic and are bound to trigger feelings of hatred toward the warmonger George Bush.

The Spanish journalist described the mood among Iraqi soldiers as "neither fanatic nor nervous." "At an Army ball in one of Baghdad's biggest hotels, groups of young soldiers danced with each other in an exuberant mood." In interviews with journalists they stated: "The Iraqi Army is very strong and has gathered considerable experience during eight years of war with Iran. There is no difference between the Iraqi and U.S. soldiers."

In Baghdad, not so much significance is accorded to the expiration of the UN deadline as in Iraq's neighboring countries: "Our enemies are welcome, welcome, welcome."

Soldiers stated in a self-confident manner: "If a war should actually take place, we will not capitulate to the United States."

Paper Maintains 'No Retreat' on Kuwait

NC1501105691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Kuwait will remain the 19th Iraqi governorate, Palestine will be liberated, and the wealth of the nation will also be freed of its great plunderers and thieves who today are sheltering in the shadow of the foreigner's spear.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Bush should realize today that with the Iraqi Army in one trench encompassing all the large Arab homeland are the great Iraqi people with their unparalleled glories, heroic deeds, and sagas along with all the sons of the nation and the mujahidin and fighters.

The paper stresses that there will be no retreat concerning the 19th Iraqi governorate—the land of dignity and pride and the arena of honor, belief, and the big confrontation—and that there is no retreat on the liberation of Palestine or the Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz.

The paper adds that the faithful gathering will no longer accept the continued U.S. tyranny and the U.S. unilateral determination of the world's destiny, the added injustice to persecuted people that could result from this, or the disasters, suffering, tribulations, hunger, and deprivation of hundreds of millions of people that are caused by it.

The paper continues: Today, more than five months have passed since the return of Kuwait to its kinsfolk. The fact that it has been incorporated and merged in a final way into the body of Iraq's land, people, and history and has become a symbol of confrontation and an arena of honor and dignity for every believer, means that all national, pan-Arab and human rights and objectives of the faithful gathering have been crystallized and merged.

The paper asserts that the big confrontation has to be comprehensive in its objectives, forces, and expanse because, first and foremost, it is the confrontation of the nation in all its human dimensions. It is also the confrontation of right and belief in their entirety against evil, infidelity, and tyranny in their entirety.

Editorial Says Bush Will Feel 'Greatest Regret'

NC1501105091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH calls on Bush to realize that Iraq will teach him to experience the greatest regret, and it will make the deadline he has sought a disaster for him, his allies, and agents.

In an editorial today, the paper says: We declare frankly and clearly that the Iraqis, backed up by their Arab and Islamic depth, will strike back twice as forcefully and will

make this date usher the beginning of the end to international imperialism as represented by the United States, and of the restoration of usurped Arab rights, foremost of which is Arab Palestine.

The paper adds that the army of faith led by the faithful mujahid leader Saddam Husayn is able to defend its land and honor, and the nation's honor.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say that the time for the Arab nation to retrieve every usurped right, both territory and wealth, has come. It says that faith's ability to achieve victory, and the military capabilities with which Iraqis are honored and with which they honor the nation, will be the instrument of liberation. It notes that these capabilities will be the sword of right when the time comes.

The paper asserts that at this particular time and in these moments when the world is witnessing the peace-loving nations' rejection of Bush's hostile logic, we tell all these nations that Bush has chosen the path of war and we have accepted it, not for the sake of war, but to deliver the world from the crudeness and ferocity of the American wolf, who has no other way of dealing than scratching with his dirty claws.

The paper says that at a time when we have offered all we had for the sake of peace, we see no duty before us now except God's pleasure and the satisfaction of our consciences by defending our principles and territory when Bush opposes all efforts to find a way to peace. He also exploited the instruments of his aggression to crush the nation's aspiration to regain its lands, usurped under the patronage of the U.S. Administration.

The paper stresses that Bush wants this war and he has sought it; Iraqis will bring the strength from God to it. History has known us as men who know only the path of right and who make sacrifices for its sake. The gates of hell will open to swallow up the Americans and their allies in an inferno set alight by the sons of Iraq who will use calculation, planning, and weapons that will surprise the aggressors. The paper says it will be too late then for the aggressors, who wanted and sought evil, to feel regret.

Editorial Affirms Military Holds 'Surprises'

NC1301085591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH affirms that Iraq's military arsenal contains surprises that will stun the enemies and dazzle the friends when the zero hour comes and "the mother of battles" begins.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the force we have prepared to confront and defeat the invaders is not ordinary. As President Saddam Husayn told the members of the popular Islamic conference, the war will be costly, Iraq's defeat will be impossible, and victory will ultimately be to Iraq, the Arab nation, and all of mankind.

The paper adds: Since the beginning of the battle after the great day of the call [2 August 1990], we have despised those voices and trumpets that spoke of the capabilities of "the American Rambo" and imagined that the United States' war against Iraq would be a picnic.

The paper explains that Washington is aware of Iraq's military capabilities and fears its surprises in the war. It is also aware of the dimensions and results of the battle whether in the region, the Arab homeland, or the Islamic world. Therefore, it has abstained from launching a military assault against Iraq because its confidence is shaken. It fears certain defeat at the hands of the Iraqi army, and it is afraid that a new map of the area will be drawn in which there will be no place for America and its agents.

The paper notes that Bush is still making threats and saying that as the middle of this month approaches peace is left behind. The paper says: Then this means war. If it is so, let Bush come to its altar and slaughter his forces, destroying the American interests as a result.

The paper stresses that a nation whose history began with the dawn of civilization is facing a nation of migrants whose history is no more than 200 years; whose population consists of highway robbers, criminals, and unwanted people; and who has been hostile to humanity throughout its history. This is intolerable. We will fight America with Iraq's mighty power. We will strike it with all the glories and resources of the Arab nation. We will triumph whether they like it or not. It is up to Bush to choose.

Paper Says Iraq 'Fully Ready' To Beat 'Invaders'

NC1301100591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Iraq is able and fully ready to solidly defeat the invaders and their faint agents.

In today's editorial headlined "Ready and Assured," the paper says the inevitability of the believers' victory in this battle is based on numerous facts and measures that emerged after 2 August and that reinforced the front of right against wrong. It is also based on accurate practical and tangible calculations. Before anything else, confidence comes from our people's deep belief in God and their conviction of a militant role and a religious duty to themselves, their nation, to Muslims, and all of humanity.

Since 2 August the U.S. Administration has used intimidation and threats against Iraq, but the result was contradictory to Bush's calculations and his stupid, losing bets. Iraq did not change its firm, principled position, did not back down, and did not abandon the rights of its people and nation; indeed, Iraq's insistence and determination to adhere to and defend these rights has heightened.

Strong and able Iraq has mobilized 60 or more divisions. The Arab and Muslim corps of sacrifice are still waiting their turn to take their positions on the front of right. When the war breaks out, Bush and those running after him like small dogs will find out that threats of force and beating the drums of war are one thing and the actual

fighting and readiness for sacrifice are quite another. They will discover that aggression on Iraq is a very tough mission and that the human, economic, and political cost has never occurred to them.

The paper notes that the smoke and fire rising from the crucible of battle will neutralize, if not completely annihilate, much of the advantages of technological superiority. Technological superiority on paper and in notebooks is not the same thing as on the battle field. Moreover, the paper adds, man is the basic factor in war, for he is the one who carries the weapons and uses the technology. More important yet is faith in the justice and legitimacy of the battle that one is fighting. Such a faith is not available to the soldiers of evil and atheism.

AL-THAWRAH says that 1.2 billion Arabs are now fully aware that the confrontation fought by our great people is not merely in defense of the Iraqi people and territorial integrity. The battle field for this confrontation will not be confined to Iraq or the Arab World. The goals of that confrontation are not temporary or partial, but national, pan-Arab, humanistic, honorable, and comprehensive.

Therefore, the paper adds, it is only natural that holy war be the slogan of the faithful, that every Arab and every Muslim be called upon to participate in jihad wherever he is and with whatever resources he has, and that the belief in the one and only God be the basis for that confrontation. In addition, we have made serious preparations and arrangements that will make victory ours, God willing, certainly and soon. We can see victory walking toward us us, victory that matches the faith that fills our hearts.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by saying that victory will be the lot of the true and faithful ones who march under the slogan: God is great. No unjust and atheist force, regardless of how potent and arrogant it may be, can defeat the faithful who stand like a defiant mountain, ready and willing to crush the skulls of the aggressors; rip them to pieces; smash the dens of evil and treachery; liberate Palestine, Jerusalem, and the sacred places; and rid these places of the filth of foreign occupation. This is the way it will be, with the aid of God and the determination of the valiant men of our triumphant armed forces.

Syrian Paper Interviews Iraqi Opposition Figure

NC1201094491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jan (SANA)—'Abd-al-Raziq al-Safi, member of the Iraqi Communist Party Political Bureau, has asserted that the situation in Iraq was very difficult even before the invasion of Kuwait, the imposition of the international embargo, and the isolation of Iraq. He explained that Saddam's regime has dragged Iraq to the edge of a bottomless pit during the past 10 years.

In an interview with TISHRIN today, al-Safi said the Iraqi regime's crisis was intensified and its pillars were shaken because of the terrorist-oriented political situation and the critical economic situation with all its subsequent unemployment and destruction in both urban and rural areas, in addition to other factors.

Al-Safi said Saddam Husayn's regime embarked on its new adventure of invading and annexing Kuwait after the frenzied war with Iran, when all methods failed to ease the grip of the strangling crisis.

Al-Safi further said that the strangling economic crisis, the political crisis which is currently eating away at the roots of the regime because of Saddam's invasion Kuwait, and all the talk about the return of the branch to the root and about the just distribution of wealths are merely a facade to cover the crime of invading an Arab state. He said all this talk will deceive no one.

He asserted that the Iraqi people are dissatisfied with the invasion of Kuwait and that they are strongly opposed to this crazy move.

He added that it is the enemies of the Arab nation—the Zionists, the imperialists, and those who are hostile to Arab interests—who stand to gain from Saddam's policy and his invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Safi contended that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait torpedoed the efforts to establish Arab solidarity and created further discord among Arabs. This, he further said, encouraged Zionists to upstage the Palestinian cause and intifadah and let the enormous numbers of Jewish immigrants flow to Palestine unnoticed and unresisted. He added that the invasion obstructed the activity of the Arab League which had hoped to move in a new framework toward effective solidarity under the new prevailing conditions.

Al-Safi added that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait dirtied the Arab reputation before the world, weakened solidarity with the Arab people's struggle against Zionist and Israeli aggression, and overshadowed all other issues.

He asserted that the Iraqi opposition has been and still is in favor of the peaceful option which stresses the need for implementing the UN Security Council resolution on the Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait. He added that Saddam's refusal to withdraw is bound to light a fire of unpredicted dangers involving the entire region, and primarily the Iraqi people, who will be the first victims.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Criticizes UK's Major

NC1201104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the logic governing remarks on developments in the Gulf region by UK Prime Minister John Major during his tour of the region.

In an editorial today, the paper writes that by beating the drums of war, Major proved that he is not only Thatcher's shadow and political acolyte, but also the shadow of the U.S. policy.

The paper believes that John Major failed to read the British military institutions' assessment of the economic and human losses facing his country in case military confrontations break out in the Arabian Gulf. It contends that Major would not have said what he said if he had consulted his institutions and experts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH recalls a circular distributed among public hospitals by the British Defense Ministry during Major's tour of the Gulf. The circular said that "one out of every two British military personnel would be killed or wounded if a war breaks out."

The paper refers also to THE OBSERVER report which disclosed that British military officials have instructed the Health Ministry in their country to prepare 7,500 beds for wounded military personnel who might not find a place in military hospitals.

THE OBSERVER cited those officials as saying that the government expects the number of wounded to reach 18,500, half of the British troops stationed in the Gulf.

Paper Predicts 'Great Victory' if War Erupts

NC1201100991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, writes that Iraq, aided by all the Arabs and good people in this world, are determined to finish the confrontation with the enemy, if it erupts, with a great victory.

In its today's editorial, AL-QADISIYAH says: The political and military stature of Iraq has gained in influence and power enough for that country to be able to restore all the usurped historical rights of the Arab people.

The paper adds: America and international Zionism have come to understand that Iraq built its military power and extraordinary political abilities to place them at the disposal of the sons of the Arab people who aspire to gain their freedom and who were in dire need for someone to awake their dormant potentials for strength and vitality. This is why America and the international Zionism have massed their armies and prodded their allies and little agents to strike at Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH warns America and the warmongers and destruction advocates who stand behind it that they have to understand that Iraq is determined to score victory, for it is a country based on a true and firm foundation of the effort of its good people. The entire world knows that Iraq's good people are determined to confront evil, regardless of its scope and force, and completely defeat its advocates.

AL-QADISIYAH says: If America and its supporters in the camp of evil have based their miscalculations on the assumption that the battle with the Iraqis will be confined to the confrontation with the Iraqi forces at the scene of operations or that such a battle can be decided with a military strike, we must conclude that they have failed to understand this confrontation or take into account its scope and dimension.

The paper writes: The battle will not be confined to the Iraqis alone in the confrontation with the enemies and their alliance. Such confrontation will take place between all the sons of the Arab people and the enemies. When the battle comes, the fragile alliance of the enemies will fall apart and divide into two camps: The losing, despicable, and cursed ones and those who will choose to defend the remainder of their abilities, vital interests, and ties with the Arabs.

AL-QADISIYAH notes another fact that America and those who stand beside it have forgotten: The confrontation will be played out over the entire arena of the Arab people and the vital interests of America and its allies all over the world will be threatened with destruction. The good Arabs and Muslims will be confronted with a reality that forces them into participating actively in the confrontation with the enemies so as to punish these enemies and halt the tide of their vicious aggression against great Iraq and the Arab people.

The paper concludes its article by calling on all evil ones to absorb these facts, reconsider their calculations, and take another look at their tattered papers before the military confrontation begins, for then it would too late for them to reverse the course of events.

Editorial Underlines Confidence in Victory

NC1201085591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH warns the alliance of evil and infidelity that the first strike in retaliation for any aggression against Iraq will be directed against the Zionists and will take place simultaneously with a violent Iraqi strike against the concentrations of the alliance of evil and its interests everywhere.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Iraq has prepared the necessary force and completed its preparations in the various fields. Iraq views this battle, which will be the "mother of battles," as a greater historic opportunity for all the Arabs and faithful Muslims to retrieve their rights in their land and sacred sanctities.

The paper stresses that the retribution of the Zionists will take place simultaneously with the retribution Iraq has decided to inflict on Bush and the evil group. This is a just punishment deriving its character from the right of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Islamic nation to their sanctities. The paper explains that the punishment of the Zionists means that nothing with the name "Israel" would remain. Likewise, the punishment of Bush's infidel concentrations means that none would remain except those with broken bones and crushed heads. [sentence as received]

The paper says: The confidence and struggle of the believing commander Saddam Husayn are sufficient indications of Iraq's preparedeness. This confidence,

which is crowned by trust in the Almighty God and profound faith in victory, is sufficient to make the desired victory imminent and to make Palestine considered as having been returned to its people from now, whether its usurpers wish or not and whether Bush and his followers have absorbed this fact or not.

The paper affirms that victory is imminent and that Palestine will return to its people with God's help. The mother of battles will be a fire that will consume the American and Zionist invaders.

Paper Blames U.S. for Geneva Talks' Failure

NC1201082591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ holds the U.S. Administration responsible for wasting the available opportunity for peace by deliberately aborting the Geneva negotiations. In its editorial today, the paper writes that since the outbreak of the so-called Gulf crisis, the United States' conduct and concepts have been reflecting stands which are hostile to Iraq and antagonist to a just and lasting peace in the region.

The paper blames the White House for the deteriorating conditions in the region, saying that the line of conduct pursued by the U.S. Administration has further complicated matters instead of providing favorable opportunities for the peaceful solution and the political settlement.

AL-'IRAQ described U.S. claims to protect international law and legitimacy as hypocritical, whose falsity is reflected in the varying standards observed by the U.S. Administration, as well as in the bias toward every move that runs counter to the people's lawful hopes and aspirations.

The paper draws the attention of the Bush administration to the fact that turning a deaf ear to the terms of a just and comprehensive peace will eventually drag it into a fatal mistake. It says that a desire to preserve peace can never be expressed in two conflicting stands and that belief in the need for the peaceful settlement of problems cannot be viewed in accordance with two sets of opposed criteria. The paper adds that peace is a one indivisible entity. Hence, preserving peace is supposed to follow one and the same logic, and seeking a peaceful settlement for problems and crises can never be seen from two different perspectives.

AL-'IRAQ writes that international law has definite rules and that international legitimacy has clear principles. Whoever is keen to preserve them should neither be selective in applying international law nor pass over international norms.

Paper: Shamir Given 'Green Light' To Hit Iraq

JN0901145191 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 9, INA—The Iraqi English language daily "BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has announced in the dearest terms he had secured the green light from anti-Iraq U.S Arab allies to "retaliate against Iraq if it attacked Israel".

The remark is perhaps the first to reveal the real yet invisible dimensions of the anti-Iraq coalition. Israel is for sure the reserve Force shich is kept in store to be used whenever a war should be touched off by a U.S-led attack.

Among the main spinoffs of the recent Gulf crisis is the razor-sharp polarisation of powers in the Middle East. Gone is the time when Israel was referred to as "enemy" by certain Aarab regimes which are currently siding with the racist Jewish regime against a fellow Arab state.

All talk by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others about "the liberation of Palestine" amount now to no more than political to rubbish thanks to the Gulf crisis.

Shamir's statement has laid bare the genuine policy of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab regimes who have exploited their declared [as received] but show enmity to Israel to keep their heads above water.

It is no wonder now that Saudi Arabia which has a formidable arsenal at its disposal, has failed over 40 years of confrontation with Israel and during three Arab-Israeli wars to send a single aircraft to attack Israel. If in 1948, Saudi Arabia was still a "nascent desert state", it was in 1967, as King Fahd claims, a developed state with a military force that should have been reckoned with. In 1973, Saudi Air Force was in possession of sophisticated weaponry including advanced aircraft.

However, none showed up to help the joint Arab war effort. In contrast, Iraq has left no Arab-Israeli conflict pass without actively engaging in combat. Iraqi martyrs are now lying in almost every part of occupied Palestine, West Bank, Sinai and the Golan heights. It was an Iraqi squadrons that attacked Israel air defence nests in Sinai in 1973 and it was the Iraqi armour that saved Damascus from advancing columns of racist Israeli generals.

A history of serious Iraqi uncompromising attitude has resulted in an Israeli standing desire to see Iraqi's wings always clipped. Iraq simply is one of the main hurdle in the way of Israeli expansion.

The Gulf crisis has offered Israel and its Arab friends a golden opportunity to rid the region of the Iraqi military weight. Then and only then, Israel and its regional allies can sit and iron out the "trivialities" under the slogan of "peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question" which Mubarak, Sadat's heir, is spearheading.

It is perhaps one of the basic gains of the current crisis that the odd man is left out. They are out there, not even with the fig leaf on the one side, and all the honest, sincere people who have adopted the liberation of Palestine as the backbone of their policy, the ultimate aim of their strategy, on the other.

Israel Had 'Nothing To Do' With PLO Murders

TA1501044591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0430 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Report by military correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] Israel's official reaction to the murder of the PLO officials in Tunis states that Israel had nothing to do with it. The reaction was issued by Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser.

Curfew Imposed in Territories

TA1501052791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning imposed a curfew on Nabulus, Gaza, Khan Yunus, and numerous refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for fear of riots in the wake of the murder of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl ['Abd-al-Hamid Hayil]. In reaction to the murder Fayiz Abu-Rahmah states that this is a sad development which will only increase tension. He expressed his confidence that the murders are connected to the Gulf crisis.

President Herzog Addresses Nation on Crisis

TA1501102791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 91

["Address" by President Hayim Herzog to the people of Israel; date and placed not given—recorded]

[Text] Friends, brothers, and sisters. As the sand in the hourglass runs out, Israel is facing a fateful hour, neither the first in our history, nor, I fear, the last. Since the establishment of the state we have witnessed fateful hours pregnant with tension. We all know, either consciously or unconsciously, that we will also confront the current crisis with coolheadedness, restraint, and honor. We will know how to draw on our spiritual reserves, which we have in rich abundance. We will know how to continue to build, create, and absorb immigration without losing our senses.

As I speak to you, the die has not yet been cast, we do not know how the crisis will develop in the Persian Gulf. During my monthly talk to you in early August, at the outbreak of the crisis, I evaluated how it would develop. I believe my evaluation has not been disproved. I believed then that Iraq would not dare to launch missiles at us and would not take the risk of using less sophisticated weapons. While it is difficult to forecast what the future will bring and how a tyrant like Saddam Husayn, who does not have any restraints, will act, we can state with certainty that he is aware of the danger he is placing his country in if he dares to develop an aggressive military posture against Israel. He knows that our response would be harsh and painful. We have been through many national crises and we are now at the peak of a crisis, which sooner or later will also be behind us. Nevertheless, I can point out with satisfaction and pride that the State of Israel, at all levels of society, serves as an example of commendable civil behavior. It sets an example for the new immigrants who have recently joined us, as well as for the nations of the world on how at a time of pressure and crisis a small and brave nation behaves with spiritual calm and coolheadedness. It is a sign of pride for us all.

We have once again proved that despite the public conflicts, all Israeli governments have learned to foresee the future and prepare for it correctly: to build up our military might and logistic capability, as well as our ability to defend all the civilian systems, and to develop home front defenses, including the distribution of masks as a defense against a chemical attack. This is an opportunity to express our support for all branches of the defense establishment for planning and building up a firm infrastructure over the years.

There are few nations that have to face serious challenges like those facing Israel. I am certain that from a historical perspective we will be proud of our ability to face all the missions and challenges and to overcome each one without permitting any of them to disturb our life styles. There are few countries that are capable of doing that.

I fully support the view of the chief of staff that the probability of our direct military involvement in the crisis is extremely limited and that it certainly will not go beyond defending ourselves against a number of missiles with limited accuracy, range, and ability to do damage. We must recall again and again that this event is taking place some 1,000 km from our eastern border, and that during the bloody eight-year war between Iraq and Iran our lives were not disturbed whatsoever. Despite all the cautionary steps we must take we must remember that the destruction and damage that missiles, even if launched against us, can cause are limited and random. I would like to point out a fact that the public has perhaps ignored, namely that during the past three years of events in the territories, some 450 bombs were set off inside Israel and the territories, each of which could have caused destruction basically not different from what an inaccurate missile—limited in range and with problems in carrying its payload—is capable of causing. We should also recall that most of those explosives were set in urban areas, and like the missiles, which if launched at all, could only cause minute harm.

Friends, we have not lost our senses up to now and we will not lose our coolheadedness now either. Even if Saddam Husayn does not withdraw his Army from Kuwait and fighting breaks out—and that possibility certainly exists—the pressure on the Iraqi Army will be massive and unbearable. To the best of my knowledge, the Iraqi Army will collapse quickly. I doubt that in such circumstances Israel would be the main thing on Saddam's mind. The Iraqi Army, which is dispersed, will be forced to defend itself against a U.S.-British military might that has overwhelming superiority, tremendous destructive clout, and will strike at Iraqi forces from the ground, air, and sea.

The Turkish Army is deployed on Iraq's northern border and not far away is the Syrian Army. Both have long accounts to settle with Iraq. In the east is the Iranian Army, which has bitter memories of eight years of cruel war. Even if Iraq launches an initial strike its Army will have to cope with problems other than opening an additional active front with Israel.

I believe and hope that we will not be involved in the war, but even if Saddam Husayn does not use military wisdom, I have no doubt of our ability to stand firm. To my regret we have had more experience than any other nation; however, we have proven that even in changing times our flexibility and our steadfastness are not harmed. If we are forced to confront a real threat we have something to depend on and we should trust our ability and the thorough preparations we have undertaken.

We are witnessing one of many intra-Arab struggles. We have no connection with it and for our part we will not intervene. This crisis once again proves to the entire world that Israel is the one stable factor that knows the insanity of the region and its upheavals. When in the past we warned about the madness of the Iraqi leader we were ridiculed. When we were forced to act to remove his ability to act we were denounced. The world now understands that we were right, but did such a heavy price have to be paid?

We would like to express our appreciation to the United States for its responsible role and its enormous contribution, without which it is doubtful whether the crisis would have ceased where it did. Without U.S. steadfastness it is possible that the Iraqi Army would already be deployed beyond the borders of Kuwait, control the main oil reserves in the world, and act as a direct threat to the region and perhaps the entire world.

U.S. President Bush has shown determination, wisdom, and rare leadership, which places him as a top world leader.

On the other hand, we are once again watching with disappointment and almost with disbelief the groveling and disgraceful behavior of many of the European leaders, who except for Britain, have shown helplessness and a readiness to compromise all moral and human principles. The European leaders should have remembered the historical lesson about what led up to World War II, which they themselves experienced: Pacifying a bloodthirsty and unrestrained tyrant brings,in the final analysis, destruction on those who are prepared to close their eyes and give in to him at the outset of his plans. If there is one thing that is embarrassing in the development of the Gulf crisis it is the groveling and readiness to please a cruel tyrant at any price.

Friends, we who believe in Israel's rock-like fortitude and the historical responsibility placed on us must continue to act, build, create and absorb aliyah. We must act with coolheadedness and restraint, but with determination, and I am certain that is how we will act. We will live through this crisis, just as we lived through others in the past, and we will come out of it strengthened. Let us stand up in the face of the threat as a firm rock which cannot be shaken. Shalom.

Right To Retaliate Against Iraq Affirmed

LD1401215291 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, Israeli Government spokesman, by reporter (name indistinct) Sannier, by telephone from Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Sannier] If Saddam Husayn attacked Israel, he would no doubt cause Jerusalem to retaliate, a retaliation which risks splitting the anti-Iraqi front into pieces. Egypt, and above all Syria, might then change camps. With us live from Jerusalem is Mr Avi Pazner, who is the government spokesman. A first question, Mr Pazner: In case of an Iraqi attack, would there be a limited retaliation or a massive retaliation by the Israelis?

[Pazner] Good evening. You understand very well that I do not want to go into the operational details of an Israeli retaliation. What I can tell you is that Israel is not threatening anyone. We have no aggressive intentions with regard to any of our neighbors whatever, including Iraq. Of course, if we are attacked we shall exercise our right to legitimate defense and we shall defend ourselves.

[Sannier] The Americans have asked you not to respond. As I just said, you are running the risk of seeing the Egyptians and Syrians leaving the anti-Iraq coalition?

[Pazner] Not at all. We had excellent conversations with Mr Eagleburger and the Americans understand our position very well. I do not think there is any risk of splitting this coalition against Saddam Husayn as the countries you have mentioned see in Saddam Husayn and in Iraq a threat which is much greater than any possible Israeli threat. It is a threat to their security and I am sure that if we retaliate, everyone will understand this.

[Sannier] Mr Pazner, tension is mounting in Jordan and in Amman particularly. Jordan is on your border together with the Palestinians. Are you worried this evening?

[Pazner] Listen, we are following very closely what is happening in Jordan and it is clear that the Jordanian maneuvers and the troop concentrations are a bit threatening. We only have good intentions toward Jordan. We are not threatening Jordan. Jordan knows this. Jordan has nothing to fear from Israel and I hope it will not interfere in what is going to happen subsequently.

[Sannier] A last and more personal question, Mr Pazner, and I ask you in your capacity as an Israeli citizen. Are you afraid this evening, like millions of Israelis?

[Pazner] No, I am not afraid. I do not think any Israeli is afraid. We are not afraid of Saddam Husayn. We are calm, we are resolute, we are confident, we have confidence in our army, in our air force; we know our strength

and I am sure that whatever happens the State of Israel will be stronger afterwards and even more confident.

[Sannier] Mr Pazner, thank you for replying to our questions live from Jerusalem.

Gas Masks To Be Distributed to Arabs in Territories

TA1401161491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The High Court of Justice has ordered the defense establishment to proceed at once to distribute the gas masks kept in the emergency warehouses to Arabs in the territories, thus accepting the appeal submitted by a resident of Bethlehem.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that defense officials stated that, at this point, there are only some 170,000 gas masks in the emergency warehouses for the inhabitants of the territories. Consequently, the High Court of Justice ordered that gas masks be distributed in Arab locations in the Jerusalem area and along the Green Line, because they are situated close to Jewish settlements and because the level of risk there is higher than in other locations in the territories.

Reaction to Decision

TA1401174091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Reacting to the High Court of Justice ruling on the distribution of gas masks to Arabs in the territories, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser said: For years it had been assessed that the Judaea and Samaria region, which is inhabited by Arabs, does not constitute a risk area prone to an attack by an Arab country. Nevertheless, in view of Saddam Husayn's threats to attack Israel shortly after the current defense minister entered office, the defense establishment launched a vast effort to acquire protective gear for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. Thanks to this effort, a great deal of money was disbursed shortly afterward to purchase over 170,000 gas masks to be distributed to these people.

Nave added: Needless to say, the defense establishment will abide by the High Court of Justice ruling.

Distrubution To Begin

TA1501055291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The defense establishment will today begin distributing gas masks to Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria residing near Jerusalem and the Green Line. Places involved include Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, al-Duhayshah refugee camp, Ramallah, al-Birah, Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, and the Qalandiyah refugee camp.

UN Officers Ordered To Evacuate Dependents

TA1301182691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The UN Secretariat has issued an order to all officers stationed in Israel to get their dependents out of the country. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that tomorrow special chartered planes will fly UN dependents from Ben-Gurion Airport to Cyprus from where they will proceed to their respective countries.

Saddam Impeding Departure of UN Personnel

TA1401185191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpts] There have been reports that UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding is in the region to negotiate the winding- up of UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] in south Lebanon. Reporter Harley Braidman asked Timor Goksel at UNIFIL headquarters if there was any foundation to the rumors.

[Begin Goksel recording] I think it is totally to the contrary. He is discussing the continuation of the UNIFiL mission and to fulfill the mandate. That's news to me. We have never heard anything like this. As I said, it is totally to the contrary. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The United Nations is anxious to withdraw its personnel serving in Iraq, but Saddam Husayn wishes to keep them there. This was disclosed by UN Under Secretary Marrack Goulding at his meeting today with Foreign Minister David Levi. [passage omitted]

For once Goulding did not repeat the UN demand that Israel allow UNIFIL to deploy right down to the international border. In previous years, the United Nations has repeatedly demanded the elimination of the security zone held by the South Lebanese Army with Israeli support. Perhaps, with the Gulf crisis in the background, this demand now seems irrelevant.

Shamir Briefs Labor; No Talks on Unity Government

TA1401194991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The meeting lasted over an hour. The prime minister welcomed the leaders of the Labor Party and stressed that the meeting was meant to be a briefing on the situation and to allow an exchange of views. Yitzhaq Shamir said that differences should be laid aside at such a time and that all efforts should be concentrated on preparing for war if such a situation indeed develops. There are no disagreements regarding Israel's deployment and its reaction, Shamir added, and said that if the crisis continues there will be additional meetings of this kind with the leaders of the Labor Party, which constitutes the major opposition party.

Upon leaving the meeting, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that it was devoted to a briefing on the situation and to an update on Israel's state of preparedness, adding that no other issues were discussed. In other words, the participants did not discuss broadening the framework of the government.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The purpose of the meeting was to receive an updated and full briefing, and that is indeed what took place.

[Raz] At such a critical juncture, would the experience of former prime ministers not be appreciated?

[Peres] We have no intention of taking any initiative on this issue. We are admittedly in the opposition, but this is not the case in times of emergency. In times of emergency we will all serve the state's security needs as best we can. Our differences are more in the political sphere than about defense issues.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, are you satisfied with the government's policy. How do you regard the decisions made by the prime minister and by the senior ministers?

[Peres] I do not wish to comment on this matter. [end recording]

In other words the Labor Party, asserted Shim'on Peres, is not in the opposition as far as the military deployment is concerned, even though it may not agree with the government on political issues. It should also be pointed out that the chief of staff, the Air Force commander, and the head of the Army's Intelligence Branch also participated in the meeting, in addition to Ministers Arens and Levi. Labor Knesset Members [MK's] Rabin and Mikha Harish also took part in the session. The Likud faction was represented by MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. As reported, these meetings will continue if necessary.

Rejects 'War Cabinet' With Labor

TA1401092191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by political correspondents Sarah Honing and Michal Yudelman]

[Excerpt] A "war cabinet," or any other emergency framework which would include Labor Party representatives, was categorically rejected yesterday by circles close to Prime Minister Shamir.

Shamir is to meet Labor leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin this evening, to brief them on latest developments in the Gulf crisis and their implications for Israel's immediate security.

A war cabinet was proposed yesterday by Labor's Nisim Zvili. His idea was that this cabinet be an alternative to a national unity coalition and include the prime minister, the defense and foreign ministers, Peres, Rabin, and a third un-named Laborite.

The idea was speedily quashed by the Prime Minister's Office, which stressed that it has "absolutely not the slightest intention of creating any formal framework in which Labor would take part, influence decision making and the implementation of decisions. We have not forgotten how Labor undermined government policy on foreign affairs and security during the last national unity government. Labor's leaders will be treated with all the respect due to the leaders of the opposition—they will be briefed and kept in the picture, but not more than that."

A source in the Prime Minister's Office explained that Peres and Rabin will be given the latest information tonight and will be able to raise any idea they wish.

Peres stressed last night that today's meeting "will be strictly for the purpose of receiving information and not for anything along the lines of expanding the present government. The idea of a national unity coalition at this point is not in the cards." [passage omitted]

Peres: Saddam To Be Defeated by 'Decisive' Blow

TA1301153891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres believes that Saddam Husayn will not withdraw from Kuwait and will be defeated by a decisive military blow. In a talk with high school seniors in Herzliyya, Shim'on Peres said that Saddam Husayn, like other dictators, has fallen victim to his own propaganda to the extent of believing in his own lies about his strength.

Shim'on Peres also said that Israel must launch political initiatives at once, rather than wait for the moment when the anti-Iraq international coalition tells us what to do.

Government Urged To Be Cautious in Retaliation

TA1301144891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jan 91 p A10

[Editorial: "If War Breaks Out"]

[Text] A high-level U.S. delegation, headed by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, arrived in Israel to try to coordinate both countries' activities in case of a conflagration in the Gulf. The coordination is important, the openness is critical, and a broad understanding between the two countries is a strategic advantage for Israel.

It is obvious that if Israel is not attacked by Iraq, it will not react. We hope that the Israeli Government has decided that it will not take advantage of a conflagration in which it is not involved to attack Iraq.

At the same time there is the difficult question of what Israel should do if it is attacked. Israel might be attacked

by Iraqi missiles or planes; it could be attacked by Jordanian artillery or ground forces; it could be attacked from the inside by pro-Saddam Palestinians; and it might also be threatened by the positioning of Iraqi troops in Jordan.

In any case Israel should react wisely and efficiently. That does not necessarily mean that the reaction must be immediate and with maximum force. Israel must always consider what is best for it, while remembering that there has to be a response and that one will inevitably and eventually be made.

When there is an aerial attack from Iraq or a ground attack from Jordan, there is no room to delay a response. The Air Force commander said that the pilots are in the planes, ready to act, and it can be assumed that—as usual—they will do their job right.

If Israel is attacked with missiles, the government must carefully weigh the damage caused by the attack against the damage that could be caused by an Israeli response and the U.S. reaction. It seems to us that here we can well apply the rule that Israel will not shoot before the United States does. Naturally, every rule has its exceptions dictated by unusual circumstances.

In case of an Iraqi provocation by sending units to Jordan, the correct reaction, as well as its timing, must be considered, and coordinated with the United States.

In connection with that, it should be remembered that almost all of our neighboring countries have said that Israel has a right to react if it is attacked. Egypt said this openly, and Syria was almost open about it. It should also be remembered that Jordan declared that it would not attack Israel; that it would not allow Iraq to station troops on its territory unless it is attacked by Israel; and that it was given assurances by Israel that the latter will not attack it.

For the first time in the history of the Israeli wars, there are some 500,000 U.S. soldiers in the region, Egypt and Syria are not against it, and the USSR is not supporting its enemies. Never before was the security situation as favorable as now, and Israel has the time and the space to consider its steps carefully. Under the current circumstances, restraint could be a wise move, not necessarily made out of fear. At a certain point we will perhaps have to act to show the power to deter and punish; but we will have to consider very carefully how, when, where, and with what force.

As for the Palestinians—both the instigators and their followers—it should be hoped that Israel's recent warnings have found them attentive. If, however, it becomes apparent that that is not the case, steps must be taken—determined and fast. In that case also, caution must be exercised so that such events do not backfire. The Temple Mount incident of 8 October was an important lesson on how the Kuwaiti crisis almost became the Palestinian crisis.

Commentator on Lack of Coordination With U.S.

TA1101120591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 91 p A1

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff: "So Far There Has Not Been Even Minimal Israeli-U.S. Operational Coordination"]

[Text] With the growing possibility of a war in the Persian Gulf, into which Israel might be dragged against its will, the fact that Israel and the United States have not managed to reach minimal operational coordination to prevent serious mishaps if Israel has to respond to an Iraqi attack is astounding.

While there has been a sharp improvement in the exchange of information between the two countries, the same is not true about operational coordination, where the situation is far from satisfactory and is even cause for concern. Both Israel and the United States are not interested in full operational coordination, which would call for revealing operational plans and in which the senior partner would call the shots. Up to now there has not been even minimal operational coordination regarding an Iraqi attack on Israel. That means that if Israel is forced to defend itself and respond to an Iraqi attack, there is a danger that Americans and Israelis might attack each other in the air without knowing that the other side is not the enemy.

Israel has raised the issue many times in talks with highest level Americans, but without results. All the attempts to convince Washington that the issue must be dealt with have failed so far. U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney once told Defense Minister Arens that there could be coordination between the two of them, but that under the present circumstances that is insufficient, because what is necessary is operational coordination to prevent mishaps and not coordination between the heads of the defense establishments.

It is possible that Washington might change its attitude after the fighting breaks out, but even if that happens, the dangers will not totally disappear. Even minimal operational coordination requires an infrastructure and advance planning, both of which are absent at the moment despite the agreement on strategic cooperation between the two countries. That is because Washington has always made sure that strategic cooperation with Israel is conducted via the U.S. command in Europe and not the central command, which is responsible for the Arab states. The central command is currently in charge of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and will command the military activities against Iraq. That approach derives from a political order and not military necessity. The question currently being asked in Israel is: Since the military dangers are growing, has the time not come to change the earlier directives?

King Husayn Message on Border Alert Reported

TA1301102791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] In recent days, King Husayn conveyed a message to Israel through European leaders saying that his army has upgraded the alert along the border with Israel, as well as Jordan's other borders. In his talks, the king took care to emphasize that his army will prevent the Iraqi Army from entering Jordan, if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not launch war inside Jordanian territory.

The senior political circles who reported this added that Israel does not oppose a diplomatic solution to the crisis and it welcomes the initiative of the UN secretary general "who is seeking the Nobel Peace Prize in the sands of Baghdad and on the banks of the Euphrates."

The circles further stated that Israel has informed its embassies of the five points pertaining to the political process, which should be discussed after the Gulf crisis is resolved. This step was made in a bid to obtain the reactions of European countries.

The five points are: an end of the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries; arms control; direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries concurrently with negotiations with a Palestinian representation; and regional economic projects in the spheres of electricity and water. To date, no European country has issued a reaction.

Gulf Crisis Costs Estimated at $1.165 Billion

TA1301122691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by Ya'ir Fidel]

[Text] The Finance Ministry recently examined how the Gulf crisis has affected the economy. In a prepared document, the ministry calculates that the losses, the budget increments, and the growing costs have so far amounted to $1.165 billion; and it is still impossible to estimate how much they will total until the crisis is over. The document predicted that the crisis will also have seriously detrimental effects on the economy in the long run in the fields of tourism, infrastructure investment, and fund raising overseas.

Tourism: Since September 1990 the number of tourists has dropped to the lowest point since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. The loss in revenues is estimated so far at $250 million. The current assessment is that the winter tourist season is a lost cause, even if the Gulf crisis is resolved quickly.

Energy: Since the inception of the crisis in August 1990, Israel has spent over $400 million more than was planned.

Security and Defense: The crisis has already led to a $150 million addition to the defense budget, and the Treasury estimates that maintaining the current state of alert will require another approximately $200 million. Even if war does not break out, the Treasury is sure that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will ask for budgetary increments in the near future.

Insurance: The importation of insurance services into Israel (for example: shipping and airline insurance rates) has increased dramatically in recent weeks. The government usually pays approximately $90 million each year ($7.5 million per month on average). Last month the cost of the service went up by $70 million.

Imports: Goods imported into Israel now cost approximately $25 million more than planned owing to the higher energy prices and worldwide inflation caused by the Gulf crisis.

More on IDF Preparedness for Preemptive Strike

TA1401235491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The premise on which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is working is that an Iraqi preemptive strike on Israel within two days is possible. This is stated by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. According to that assessment, the Iraqis may also launch a preemptive strike at the U.S. forces or Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent says there is a flurry of rumors about an Iraqi strike, and it is not known whether that is psychological warfare or a real intention. At any event, the IDF regards that possibility as a real one and is preparing accordingly.

Our correspondent notes that the number of Air Force planes ready at this time is almost unprecedented. The pilots have trained for long hours, the costs of their training having exceeded the initial planning by tens of millions of shekels. The antiaircraft system deployment has been reinforced, batteries have been positioned, and forces are prepared, both on the ground and in the air.

At the same time, our correspondent stresses, the decision for the time being is to continue normal life in every way in Israel, except for the instruction to begin to seal rooms. Beyond that instruction, there is no declaration of an emergency. The schools are open, and the IDF says that additional sites will open to enable the public to replace protective kits if the need arises.

Data on IDF Forces Reported 10 Jan

TA1001162291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Report by military correspondent Amir Fink]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The main threat to Israel lies in the Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles against which—as

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said—there is no defense yet. It is not clear that the Iraqis have chemical warheads.

According to the publications of the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies, there are 174,000 standing soldiers in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Adding all the reserve forces, the IDF has some 600,000 soldiers.

The IDF has 1,330 tanks of the highest quality, including Merkava tanks, and a total of 3,860 tanks. The Israeli Air Force has 638 assault planes, some of which are the most advanced of their kind in the world.

The IDF has been on high alert ever since the Gulf crisis erupted, mainly in its Air Force, Intelligence, and Civil Defense. The alert was upped a few weeks ago, according to the defense minister.

Police Reinforced To Prevent Provocation

TA1401163091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] As of tomorrow, the Israel Police will start operating according to a special and reinforced deployment. Hundreds of policemen in all patrol, traffic, bomb-disposal, and Border Police units will be deployed to deal with a possible chemical attack on populated areas. Policemen have been issued special equipment to this end.

Reinforced troops will be deployed throughout Jerusalem, particularly in the eastern part of the city. Police commanders in Jerusalem have been instructed to take firm action and react with the utmost severity to any provocations or rioting.

Speaking to journalists, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner said that orders on opening fire in times of war have, in principle, not been changed. Nevertheless, Terner pointed out, in times of emergency fire is not always directed into the air.

Arab Leaflets Urge Armed Struggle in Case of War

TA1401073791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Two new leaflets have appeared in the territories in anticipation of war in the Gulf. A leaflet put out by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine calls on Palestinians to step up the struggle in the territories in case of a war. The leaflet links an end to the Gulf crisis with a solution to the Palestinian problem.

A leaflet put out by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine calls on residents of the territories to shift to an armed struggle against settlers and soldiers in case of war in the Gulf. The leaflet warns Palestinians of what it says are Israeli intentions to expel Arabs from the territories and calls on the residents to lay down their lives to resist.

Israeli Arabs Urge Peaceful Resolution to Crisis

TA1401101391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 91 p A2

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] The secretariat of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] movement yesterday adopted a resolution calling for the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait, for the pullout of the U.S. Army and the anti-Iraqi coalition members from the Gulf, and for a peaceful settlement for the regional conflict.

'Uzi Burstein, HADASH spokesman, said that the HADASH leadership meeting was held in view of the tension in the area, and it discussed the stand it should assume in the face of the threat of war. According to him, yesterday's discussion did not deal with the Red Army's use of force in Lithuania to suppress the republic's elected institutions. He personally believes, however, that the Soviet Army should not quash the elected leaders of the Baltic republic.

Burstein further said that preparations for the third HADASH convention, scheduled to be held in Nazareth in 10 days, are under way, despite the tension and the threat of war in our region.

Arab Knesset members [MK's] from the Labor Party, HADASH, MAPAM [United Workers Party], the Arab Democratic Party—with the exception of Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace and Equality—yesterday published a joint communique with Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils, and a number of local council heads and other public figures. The communique calls on Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Iraqi and U.S. Presidents to make a last minute effort to solve the Gulf crisis "without a war that would endanger the peoples of the region and destroy its culture."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 14 January adds that "the communique was initiated by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and was signed by Arab MK's, heads of Arab local councils, and Islamic Movement figures. The communique's authors call for regional disarmament of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and express support for the UN secretary's peace initiative. Additionally, they warn against exploiting the crisis for the purpose of deporting residents of the territories."]

Increase in Palestinians Returning to Territories

TA1401093391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Military sources yesterday reported an increase in the number of West Bank and Gaza residents returning to the territories from Jordan, including many from the Gulf.

Last week, 4,000 arrived during the five days that the Allenby Bridge crossing point was open, military sources said, while 1,800 crossed in Jordan from the West Bank.

About 35,000 Palestinians who were residents of the Gulf before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had Israeli issued ID cards and as many as 25,000 are estimated by Palestinian sources to have returned.

Unofficial estimates said that about 1,000 crossed into the West Bank yesterday. Some of those crossing said they felt safer in the occupied territories, knowing that Israel was able to defend itself.

One man, returning from Kuwait, told reporters: "The private sectors are now dead (in Kuwait) and the cost of living is very high. I believe it is safe in the West Bank."

Meanwhile, the ITIM news agency reported that dozens of Palestinians in the Ramallah area, anxious about impending war, requested exit visas at the Civil Administration offices in Ramallah yesterday.

UN sources responded yesterday to Palestinian claims that international organizations should not be leaving the country while Palestinians were in danger of being victimized by Israel in the event of war: UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency, was sending "only dependents out of the country, while its 27 foreign workers in the West Bank and 23 in the Gaza Strip are staying."

Data on 1990 Events in Territories Issued

TA1101123091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 91 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] The number of incidents defined as "disturbances" (stone throwing, barricades, etc.) in the territories in 1990 was almost double the number in 1989. Data to this effect has been released by 'Uvda, the right wing's Documentation and Communication Center, which is located in Hebron. According to the center's data, 40,401 such incidents occurred in 1989 versus 71,792 in 1990.

An increase from 86 incidents in 1989 to 171 in 1990 was recorded in what is termed attacks with cold steel weapons. In 1990, 81 incidents involving gunfire were recorded in the territories, versus 82 similar incidents in the preceding year. There were six incidents involving grenades, versus three in 1989. The number of explosive charges rose from 66 to 94. The incidence of arson and Molotov cocktails dropped to a certain extent, but the number of Israeli casualties, including soldiers, rose from 1,285 in 1989 to 1,732 in 1990.

According to the 'Uvda data, 102 Palestinians were killed by Palestinians for collaboration with the authorities in 1989. In 1990, the number rose to 192. This number is higher than the number of Palestinians killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the same year (124, according to Betzelem data.) 'Uvda, which released a periodical report yesterday on events in the territories, does not state the number of Palestinians killed by IDF soldiers in the surveyed periods.

In Jerusalem, the incidence of arson rose sharply in 1990 compared with 1989. Data published recently by the fire department shows that 400 cars were set on fire in 1990 versus 230 in 1989.

Statistics Show Trade Gap Widens in 1990

TA1101103091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 91 p 17

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer and Evelyn Gordon]

[Text] Despite a 9 percent increase in exports in 1990, Israel's trade deficit increased by $1.1 billion over the previous year, due to a sharp increase in imports.

The deficit totaled $3.5b.

The tremendous increase in oil prices since August accounted for much of the increase in imports, while the rest was made up by a rise in imports of investment goods, raw materials and consumer goods, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

November and December statistics reported for the first time yesterday showed a 4 percent rise in imports, while industrial exports remained the same, and agricultural exports showed a slight drop. The trade deficit for the last two months of the year averaged $374 million, as compared to $314m. for the previous two months—a 19 percent increase.

During 1990, 34 percent of Israeli exports were sold to the European Community, while 29 percent were sold to the United States. Imports from the two economic giants made up 50 percent of all imports here.

Israel's trade deficit with Japan shrunk by 20 percent during last year. Some 75 percent of the country's exports to Japan are diamonds.

The largest increase in imports, 38 percent, was registered in investment goods (which represented 15 percent of Israel's total imports). Imports of consumer goods—some 10 percent of the total—increased 21 percent, while fuel imports rose 23 percent. Imports of industrial inputs and diamonds, in contrast, rose only 4.5 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Overall, agriculture exports were the most improved in 1990, up 24 percent from the previous year. Industrial exports rose 12 percent, while exports of diamonds rose only 3 percent.

Finance Ministry Sees Continued Unemployment Rise

TA1101102791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Unemployment is likely to hit 14-15 percent by the end of 1992, the Finance Ministry forecasts.

Unemployment is now running at around 10 percent, after rising steadily from 6 percent in 1988.

The Finance Ministry projection is based on the arrival of 300,000 immigrants next year. Officials in the Absorption Ministry and Jewish Agency say that the number will reach 400,000.

The Finance Ministry projection is also based on a gradual entrance of immigrants into the labor force. According to the forecast, 30 percent of those who will eventually choose to join the labor force will do so within nine months of their arrival, and the percentage will gradually increase to 60 percent by the end of two years.

But the authors of the study note that, in the previous wave of Soviet immigration in the early 1970s, a full 65 percent of the immigrants had joined the labor force by the end of their first year in Israel. This could indicate that unemployment could be higher than projected by the study and could develop much faster.

According to the study, about 207,000 immigrants are expected to join the labor force, in addition to the 100,000 net increase generated by the discharged soldiers and other veteran Israelis, for a total of 300,000 additional jobseekers by the end of 1992. But the authors of the study predict that the economy will grow by 10 percent and that 180,000 jobs will open up during this period, leaving 120,000 unemployed.

Ambassador Has First Formal Meeting With Soviets

TA1101103491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 91 p 20

[Report by Allison Kaplan]

[Excerpt] Washington—Ambassador Zalman Shoval met yesterday with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the first formal meeting between the official Israeli and Soviet representatives here since the Soviet Union broke off relations in 1967.

Bessmertnykh assured Shoval during the 45-minute meeting that Soviet Jews will continue to be free to leave the Soviet Union, according to Israel Embassy spokeswoman Ruth Yaron. He also pledged the USSR would not support linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At the meeting, which was held at the Soviet embassy, he also "reiterated that the resumption of full diplomatic relations is a question of time and not conditioned on anything else," Yaron said. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Austrian President's Stopover

Meets King at Airport

NC1401194891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency Austrian President Dr. Kurt Waldheim and his delegation left Amman for their country tonight after visiting Jordan for several hours and holding talks with His Majesty King Husayn. The talks basically centered on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and on Arab and international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and to spare the region a devastating war.

The talks between the two leaders, which were held at the royal reception hall at Queen Alia International Airport, were attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir; and the king's political adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah. On the Austrian side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Alois Mock and the accompanying delegation.

His Majesty King Husayn and senior state officials saw the Austrian president off, and the two leaders were saluted by a guard of honor.

Waldheim Notes Call To 'Aziz

NC1401200891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] In Amman, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said that the Iraqi Foreign Minister today, Monday, [14 January] told him that the Iraqi president wants the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue the peace efforts he is exerting in the Gulf war.

President Waldheim talked to the Iraqi foreign minister on the telephone from the Jordanian capital Amman.

REUTER cited Waldheim as saying to journalists: The Iraqi president, I was told by the Iraqi foreign minister, wants the UN secretary general's efforts, and naturally other efforts, to continue.

Waldheim said that in his telephone call with the Iraqi minister he underlined the need for some initiative concerning withdrawal, because this is an essential matter. Waldheim said that he also stressed the need to exert maximum efforts to find a peaceful solution based on UN resolutions.

Waldheim said that the Iraqi minister promised to convey this message to his president. He expressed the hope that something positive may come up at the last moment.

President Waldheim arrived in Amman from Cairo today, accompanied by an official delegation.

[Paris AFP in English at 1941 GMT on 14 January, in an Amman-datelined report on Waldheim's visit there, adds," "Mr. Waldheim, who spoke by telephone with Mr. 'Aziz in Baghdad, said the Iraqi foreign minister briefed him on the failed 11th-hour peace mission that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar undertook in Iraq.

[" 'He explained the situation and also the results of the (U.N. chief's) mission ... and made some suggestions about continuing them,' Mr. Waldheim said in an apparent reference to Iraq's wish to link a Gulf solution to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

["Mr. Waldheim said he asked Iraq to 'make a gesture in regards the withdrawal aspect' from Kuwait 'and the need for doing our utmost for a peace solution based on U.N. resolutions.'

[" 'Mr. 'Aziz promised to convey this message to his president and I hope that maybe at the last minute something positive might come out of it,' the Austrian president said.

["Mr. Waldheim had nearly two hours of talks with Jordan's King Husayn.

["Before arriving here the former U.N. secretary general had said he would decide in light of the results of his talks with the Jordanian monarch whether to fly to Baghdad.

["He also said he believed a settlement to the Gulf crisis should be resolved by Arab states, and described King Husayn as 'the best mediator' to negotiate a 'last-chance' solution.

["King Husayn turned down any further involvement and said in reply to a reporter's question on the likelihood of war breaking out in the Gulf: 'Honestly I don't know. I have tried my utmost to resolve this problem and my conscience is clear. I hope that others may succeed.'"]

Waldheim Departs; King's Statement

NC1501003991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2354 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 14 Jan (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan expressed his belief that we are living through a very dangerous time. Speaking to correspondents after Austrian President Kurt Waldheim left Amman this evening following a brief visit to Jordan, King Husayn said: We must continue our attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Jordan monarch expressed the hope that a catastrophe will be averted, because its effects will not be confined to the region; they will extend to the entire world and will last for many years to come.

King Husayn explained that he has had no contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn since his last visit to Baghdad. He said that Jordan is following events. He also said that he and President Waldheim exchanged views on [words indistinct] the situation in the region.

The Austrian president said before his departure that he had held contacts with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and stressed to him the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

UN's De Marco Assesses Chances for Peace Conference

JN0701111791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 91 p 2

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter P.V Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Despite firm Israeli opposition, there is an increasing international movement towards convening a peace conference on the Middle East, and the U.N. General Assembly is hopeful that such a forum could be convened soon, according to the president of the world body.

"Until recently, the United States and Israel were the only two countries not in favour of an international conference," noted Guido de Marco, who is currently visiting Jordan.

"But the Americans have expressed themselves in favour of the conference... as indicated in the recent Security Council statement," de Marco told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"Now we can say that the only state against this conference is Israel," he added.

De Marco, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Malta, was referring to a statement that accompanied Security Council Resolution 681 issued in December.

The non-binding statement, released by the council president, had the endorsement of the U.S., one of the five permanent members, but did not specify a time-frame for convening the conference, de Marco conceded. "Nonetheless, they (the U.S.) have accepted that there should be one," he pointed out.

De Marco, who arrived here Saturday after visiting Palestinian camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, said he found no change in the Israeli opposition to the conference.

Israeli leaders restated their oft-repeated contention that an international conference would only be a forum for their country to be at the receiving end of world criticism and attack; instead, they insist on direct talks with the Arab states neighbouring the Jewish state, according to de Marco.

"The impression I did get is that the Israeli government fears that an international conference for peace would rather put them in the bar of the accused," he reported.

The Maltese diplomat, who is visiting the Middle East on his own initiative after adopting the causes of the region as a personal crusade, said he explained to the Israelis that their "concerns" were unfounded.

"The purpose of the conference is to try and bring justice to the peoples of the region," de Marco quoted himself as explaining to the Israelis.

According to de Marco, three major points should be the basis for any settlement of the Palestinian problem.

"The Palestinian people are entitled to their own right of self-determination, which includes the observance on the part of Israel of Resolution 242—mainly evacuating the occupied territories—and also guaranteed frontiers for all states in the region,' the U.N. president said.

While the U.N. accepts that direct negotiations would eventually have to be held among the parties involved, it also believes the international conference should be convened "because of the diversity of the interests... because of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people... (and because) we also want to see the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) as an equal partner in the discussions," he said.

De Marco described the situation in the occupied territories, the site of the three-year-old Palestinian intifadah, as "very sad."

The U.N. president said he was reminded of Nazi concentration camps when he visited Palestinian camps in the occupied territories.

"When you see yourself in the camps with the (Israeli) towers overlooking the camps with soldiers watching over... (it is) something we used to see in concentration camps," he said.

De Marco paid tribute to the intifadah, which he said had achieved "great success," and the courage of the Palestinian people.

"Despite the immense suffering, one admires the great sense of perseverance and the great tool to move along—faith in the future—which one finds in the Palestinian people," he said.

According to de Marco, the Palestinians stand more in need of international reassurances that their cause is not forgotten rather than physical protection against Israeli practices designed to quell resistance.

The Palestinians want to feel that "the international community cares for them and is there to provide protection in a sense that their case is being monitored and would like to see stronger representation against the violation of their human rights," he said.

"They sometimes feel that they are left alone..." de Marco added.

While being a solid supporter of the Palestinian cause, de Marco does not necessarily see a direct linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem.

"There is no linkage in my view between events in the Gulf and events in the occupied territories in a sense that Kuwait was not invaded by Palestinians so that the situation be relevant," de Marco said.

"In all the senses of the word, I see no linkage between both issues."

De Marco said that the Palestinians in the occupied territories were frustrated to see the speedy enaction of

United Nations resolutions on Kuwait, while resolutions on the occupied territories have not been acted upon," de Marco said.

At the same time, he said, "we hope to see that the same international determination to solve the situation in the Gulf is also shown to solve the situation as far as the Palestinain people are concerned."

"I believe that we are moving in the right direction," he added.

King Husayn, PLO's 'Arafat Discuss Gulf Crisis

NC1401215191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Palestine president His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat held a round of talks tonight in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. During the meeting, they discussed the Gulf crisis and the efforts to find a peaceful solution. The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the foreign minister, as well as the Palestinian delegation accompanying Yasir 'Arafat, also attended the talks. 'Arafat arrived in Amman this evening.

Diplomatic Relations Restored With Iran

NC1501054191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0523 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to restore diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of yesterday, Monday, 14 January 1991.

The Jordanian and Iranian permanent UN representatives yesterday signed a joint statement issued in this regard.

Algerian Official Interviewed on Stopover

NC1401172291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella arrived in Amman yesterday en route to Baghad on a new peace mission. Our news program telephoned the former president and held the following interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] As you prepare your departure for Baghdad, are you undertaking any new mediation in the Gulf war?

[Ben Bella] There is an element of that. I have been making efforts for some time now with the European side, particularly with France. God willing, there will be a new opportunity. Actually, I think it may be a last chance.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic about your mission, Mr. President?

[Ben Bella] God willing. The results will be good, God willing.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how do you assess the recent consultations concerning the crisis?

[Ben Bella] The recent consultations were all held directly under U.S. auspices. The U.S. position, as you may know, is intransigent, and complicated matters considerably since it did not allow much leeway for others. After the failure of the U.S. efforts and of Baker-'Aziz meeting, (?the U.S. efforts) ended. So, others should now make a move.

[Reporter] Do you think Europe can play an effective role with regard to the crisis?

[Ben Bella] I would say that the French in particular (?are positive), but not the EC as a whole. There are grave contradictions in the EC. For example, the United Kingdom: its position concerning the United States is known. There are some other countries that we consider lackies of America. However, France, Germany, Romania, Italy, and Spain have independent positions.

[Reporter] But can these countries play an effective role?

[Ben Bella] This is the big question, or the big bet. We are running out of time. Time has run out, and last-minute efforts may produce something. This is a hope that we entertain. This is the last attempt, after that of Perez de Cuellar.

[Reporter] Mr. President, are you bringing any specific ideas with you to Baghdad?

[Ben Bella] No, not really. I have no specific ideas. I am not actually going to Baghdad to negotiate. Our Iraqi brothers are the ones who are negotiating, and we respect that. I only wish to facilitate things.

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you think that the region is heading for war, or that peaceful efforts will bear fruit in the last moments?

[Ben Bella] Actually, I cannot give you a good answer to that question. We will have to hope until the last moment that something will happen, for war will mean destruction to all, but if it is imposed on us, we will have to fight. I am not (?neutral) on that conflict, though; I am on Iraq's side, on the side of the Arab issues. Our interests, particularly the Palestinian interests, are on that side. We are all standing in the same trench.

However, we should avoid the war, for peace is in our interest. In my own opinion, we have morally won the battle. We have won, and (?we need) to manage our victory. [Words indistinct] what will happen. We and our Iraq brothers are standing fast. We are proud of them. And the same goes for you in this country, too. What remains is a good management of that victory, God willing. We have to come out victorious, if not 100 percent, then 70 percent, God willing.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what in your opinion is the way to revive the Arab role in the Gulf?

[Ben Bella] In my opinion, we need an Arab role, for the Westerners cannot tackle the details of matters that are purely Arab. There should be an Arab role. Otherwise, it is a farce, and we are (?part of it, which would be an admission of our own ineptitude). Regardless of all the negative things, and the disarray in the Arab world, we need an Arab role. There is a major Western role, featuring armies and other matters—a complicated situation, indeed. There should of course be a Western role, but I believe in an Arab role.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what is your assessment of the Algerian people's position on the current crisis and conflict?

[Ben Bella] The Algerian people are behind Iraq to the last man. Never in the past 28 years has this people supported a cause as it does today. Not one voice is heard opposing the Algerian [as heard] cause. [passage indistinct] all the Algerians, not just one million, as I read in the newspaper today. Algeria is behind Iraq to the last man.

[Reporter] Thank you, President Ahmed Ben Bella. [end recording]

King Husayn Visits General Command in Field

NC1401202691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, this afternoon paid a visit to the General Command. He was welcomed on arrival by Chief of the Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib, his assistants, and the inspector general. His majesty the supreme commander met with the chief of the general command for some time in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. They discussed matters of interest to the Armed Forces. His majesty then heard a military brief on the preparations by the Armed Forces to defend the soil of this homeland and confront all the challenges and dangers. The briefing was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and senior Armed Forces officers.

His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, this morning paid a field visit to the 12th Royal Mechanized Division, where he was welcomed by the division commander and senior officers. His majesty heard a military brief on the duties being undertaken by the division and their preparations to face any threat.

His majesty the supreme commander spoke to the division members and said: I am proud of all the people of Jordan and the members of the Armed Forces for their awareness, honest determination, sincerity, and total realization of the critical situation and scope of the challenge.

His majesty thanked the division members, affirming that with God's help, heads will remain high and the land will remain dear, which we will redeem with our hearts and souls. He also affirmed that this nation has a noble history and past, and we must fulfill our duties toward the future and the coming generations. His majesty noted that we are working to heal the rift and avoid and prevent an explosion, if possible. He also noted that we will fulfill the task with all our resources and capabilities, and with God's help, the judgment of the future Arab generations will be in our favor and not against us.

Senior Military Official on Preparedness

JN1501085291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed Monday that Jordan would defend itself "at all costs" as the Armed Forces, security and civil defence personnel were put on their highest alert since the beginning of the Gulf-crisis five months ago.

A senior military official said the 100,000-strong armed forces were placed [on] "one-hour alert" since Monday morning—meaning that personnel cannot leave their bases for more than one hour at a time, Airforce pilots were confined to barracks in full gear "awaiting orders," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

With less than 48 hours before the expiry of a U.N. ultimatum for Iraq to relinquish Kuwait or face war, King Husayn met with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib and was briefed on the military preparations "to defend the homeland and to confront various challenges and dangers," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During an earlier visit to the 12th Royal Mechanised Division, the King, the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces, stressed that Jordan would defend itself "at all costs."

King Husayn in voiced complete confidence that the Armed Forces would shoulder their responsibilities in full, Petra said. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan paid a separate visit to the Armed Forces General Headquarters, and then met jointly with the King and the chief of staff.

Wedged between Iraq and Israel, Jordan has voiced concern that it might be caught in the crossfire if a war erupts between its two mighty neighbours. The fears have been further heightened by Baghdad's vow to target Israel first in the event of an assault on Iraq by the U.S.-dominated multinational forces assembled in the Gulf, and Israel's warnings that it would retaliate for any attack.

The Israeli armed forces were also on full alert Monday, Israel Radio reported. It quoted an officer as saying that airforce pilots were "in the cockpit 24 hours a day."

"Israel is preparing for the possibility that that before Jan. 15 the Iraqis will fire missiles at it," said an Israeli security source quoted by Reuters.

Reports said Monday that the Bush administration had failed to persuade Israeli leaders to avoid involvement in

a military conflict even if attacked by Iraq. The U.S. has voiced fears that any Israeli role in the crisis would weaken the anti-Iraq coalition which includes several Arab states which are technically at war with Israel.

King Husayn and other Jordanian leaders have repeatedly said that Jordan would not allow itself to be a springboard for attack against anyone. In recent television interview, the King said Jordanian forces would try to stop any warplane using the Kingdom's airspace in any conflict stemming from the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's military along the ceasefire line with Israel has been strengthened for fear that Israel might try to use Jordanian territory to strike at Iraq.

The military official told the Jordan Times that "if the situation in the Gulf deteriorates, then the Armed forces may also be totally confined to barracks ready to face any situation."

Army reservists have not been called to duty probably because of budgetary constraints, the official said. Other sources indicated that calling up the 100,000-strong reserve units remained an option.

Members of the voluntary People's Army were called to register at local offics for possible military duty.

Men and women, between the ages 16 and 55 years, have been trained on the use of light weapons, civil defence and first aid, including protection against chemical weapons.

All leave for civil defence and public security personnel has been cancelled, and some reserve units have been called up, sources at the Public Security Department (PSD) said.

Amman, with a population of one million, has about 60 bomb shelters scattered around the city and its suburbs.

Prime Minister Claims Neutrality, Unless Attacked

JN1501084591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—After spending months seeking a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis Jordan would not change its peace-seeking policies even in the event of war, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in an interview with German television ZDF over the weekend.

"Jordan's promotion of a peaceful and just solution would not end even in the event of war, and its stand of neutrality would not change unless it was attacked," Badran said.

The prime minister said that he believed there was still time to explore further efforts (to avert war) and "the will still exists to reach a peaceful settlement," of the Gulf crisis.

Non-Arabs residing in Jordan have nothing to fear in terms of anti-foreign sentiment, the prime minister said, responding to a question about the safety of foreigners in the Kingdom.

"The Jordanians have a long history of hospitality and generosity towards visitors and non-Arabs residing in their midst and that will not change," Badran said.

While the prime minister stressed the necessity of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis and asserted that it was still at the top of the Jordanian government's agenda and that the safety of foreigners was assured, he nevertheless did not rule out the possibility of an attack against Jordan by Israel.

The prime minister said that in a "worst-case scenario" Israel might launch an attack against Jordan, adding that it was "equally dangerous" if Israel decided to expel Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan. Such a move by Israel, the prime minister said, would widen the Gulf crisis and Jordan would break its neutral stand by defending itself against its attackers.

Jordan considers both possibilities as acts of aggression which it would resist, Mr. Badran said.

"Jordan, if attacked, will reply in kind," Mr. Badran asserted in the interview. Pointing out that the 21 Arab League countries pledged to defend Jordan if attacked by Israel, the prime minister added that both the governments of Syria and Iraq have already reiterated their pledges, saying that they viewed an attack against Jordan as equivalent to an attack on their sovereignty.

Asked if the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist deputies included in the current cabinet were bound him to any particular policies, Badran began his answer by pointing out that no member of his cabinet was "fanatic or a strict fundamentalist."

"The Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist cabinet members are freely elected representatives of our society," Badran said.

The Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist members of the cabinet and Lower House represent a large sector of Jordanian society which Badran said was not fanatical or fundamentalist.

In an apparent response to the labelling by the western press in particular of many of the new cabinet members as fanatical or fundamentalist, Badran said, "we have no unreasonable, fanatical or strictly fundamentalist ministers or Lower House deputies."

Pro-Iraq Demonstration in Amman Described

JN1501093091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 91 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Thousands of Jordanian men, women and children marched through the streets of the capital Monday to protest against the U.S. and its allies, and to voice support for Iraq and vow to fight against the West if war erupted.

Some 15,000 demonstrators marched from the Professional Association Complex in Shmaysani to the Amman national stadium at Sports City carrying pro-Iraqi and anti-U.S. banners and chanting slogans promising to fight alongside Iraq against the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

"Use your chemicals, Saddam," "Go ahead, Saddam, we are with you all the way," and "Saddam, unite the land from Morocco to Bahrain," chanted the marchers in the streets as police held back traffic.

Carrying Jordanian, Palestinian and Iraqi flags and photographs of their leaders, demonstrators came from different political groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood who carried the banner of Islam that read: "No God but Allah and Muhammad is His Prophet."

Several members from the Lower House of Parliament and political activists linked arms as they led the demonstration, organised by the professional unions in collaboration with the Muslim Brotherhood.

"This demonstration is to express our support for the Iraqi people and to condemn the U.S. policy in the region," said Communist member of parliament 'Isa Madanat, who was at the front along other deputies and activists.

"We demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region and the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions in the same standard," Madanat told several reporters at the march.

Mamduh 'Abbadi, an organiser and president of the Jordanian Medical Association, said that the youth attending the march would "fight with Iraq and do everything they can to fight America if war started."

A delegation of about 35 political activists earlier delivered a protest to U.S. President George Bush through the America embassy in Amman and a letter of support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through the Iraqi embassy.

"For the last time, the voices of the people would like to warn you against playing with fire and we call on you to think about the future of humanity, as well as your people and interests," stated the protest, signed by all political groups and unions in the Kingdom.

The letter to Bush also warned the U.S. from starting a war, which it said would be destructive to the region and the entire world. "You will be responsible before God and the history of humanity for any decision to attack the peaceful people of Iraq," the statement added.

In another statement delivered to the Iraqi embassy, unionists pledged support for Saddam Husayn and Iraq, saying that the Iraqi president has acted on the feelings and aspirations of the Arab people.

"You have acted upon the feelings of hundreds of millions of Arabs, who support you today and until you achieve victory," the statement said.

Attending the rally at the stadium were the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan and several members of the Lower and Upper House of parliament.

Surrounding the stadium, banners in Arabic and English called for the appreciation of one standard in implementing Security Council resolutions and warning the U.S. not to start a war in the Gulf region.

"We shall burn the Americans with Arab oil," "U.N. is a U.S. tool that uses two standards, and "We shall destroy the interests of the U.S. and its allies," read some of the banners.

The demonstrators, who ended up sitting on opposite ends of the stadium and or together according to political groupings, burned several American and Israeli flags as the crowds shouted and applauded.

Banners carried by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Palestinian Islamic movement, Hamas, read: "Yes to jihad (holy war) and martyrdom in defence of Jordan" and "Liberating Palestine is a national day."

As they shouted "Allahu Akbar," Islamist supporters chanted, "America, take away your soldiers because tomorrow they will step on you," and "Islamic revolution from the water to the water," referring to the entire Arab World.

Several speakers addressed the crowd at the rally in support of Iraq.

Islamist Deputy Ahmad al-Azayidah warned that "today is the day of anger and tomorrow is the day of action to hit all American and Western expansionist interests everywhere."

Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi from the Democratic Bloc expressed support for Iraq and called on the Western forces to leave the Arab region.

"Get out of our land, get out of our Holy Land," shouted al-Nabulsi as the crowd repeated the words after him.

In the final communique of the rally, organisers pledged total support for Iraq against the U.S.-led forces in the region "until the liberation of the Arab land and until the purification of the holy sites."

"The first bullet fired by the forces of evil against Iraq will be a signal to every Arab and Muslim in this world to explode the volcanoes of anger to wipe out all American, Zionist and Atlantic alliance interest on this earth," said 'Abbadi, reading out the final statement.

The final 17-point statement also supported what it called the national unity of Jordan and called for being prepared to fight Israel in any battle that may take place. it also called for boycotting all American goods and to refrain from travelling to "countries of the enemy."

Egyptian Ambassador Cited on 'Warning' to Israel

NC1501112891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 51 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has met with the ambassadors of Germany and Egypt at the Bustrus Palace.

Following the meeting, Egyptian Ambassador Hasan Shash said: I would like to clarify a point that, with deep regret, the media often confuses; that is, when Egypt participated in the multinational force to defend Saudi Arabia, there were guarantees that Israel would not interfere nor make any threats in connection with the Gulf problem. He also said that Egypt is eager to help any Arab country. The Egyptian ambassador added that Egypt has issued a warning to Israel not to interfere in this problem.

Palestinian, Lebanese, Nasirite Forces on Alert

NC1401184991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Palestinian sources have said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Palestinians in Lebanon to fight on the side of Iraq if a war breaks out in the Gulf. Palestinian sources also said that approximately 6,000 Palestinian fighters in the Sidon area have been placed on maximum alert to confront any possible Israeli attack against Lebanon.

Zayid Wahbah, PLO representative in Lebanon, said that when shooting against the Iraqi forces begins, the Palestinian forces will attack U.S. interests throughout the world.

Some security sources said that the Syrian forces deployed in Lebanon have been placed on maximum alert.

The Nasirite Popular Organization declared a general state of alert as a precaution against any Israeli exploitation of the Gulf situation. The Nasirite Organization called for adopting precautionary measures.

Prime Minister Karami Discusses South, Army

Meets Fatah Dissident

NC1101181191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi discussed the issue of sending the Army to the South with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

The situation in the South was also discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of Fatah, the Uprising.

After the meeting Abu-Musa said: As Palestinians, we have duties and rights in this country. Our first duty is to facilitate this government's task. Second, we do not support the restoration of the Palestinian role that existed prior to 1982, and the Lebanese state has no intention of restoring the situation that existed before 1969. This means that there must be coordination and united views regarding the nature of the Palestinian role in carrying out its national and pan-Arab duties.

Reviews Government Task

NC1201084591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that he rejects the resignation of Minister of State Walid Junblatt. Karami said that the resignation was made for purely personal reasons that have nothing to do with the government or with politics.

In an interview with Lebanon Television last night, Karami said that the coming days will prove that Lebanon has emerged from its crisis and that public opinion will force everyone to join the march of peace and reconciliation. Karami said that the country's officials and influential forces are in agreement on the need for a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Karami said that the Greater Beirut Plan cannot be fully guaranteed until all militias are disbanded, for gunmen will keep coming back despite any preventive measures.

Karami reiterated that Minister Michel Sasin has told him that he intends to assume his new post. Karami said: Welcome to him whether he wants to begin work today or wait for the others to make a similar move.

The prime minister said that the government is ready to hold elections whenever the circumstances are favorable for such a move.

Karami denied the existence of food shortages and said that there is no reason for the rush to buy supplies.

Concerning the Army's role in the south, Karami said that the Army's task will be to ensure the safety of the citizens and guard the supply lines for the resistance [ta'min khutut al-imdad li al-muqawamah]. Karami said that any meddling with the al-Ta'if agreement is unacceptable.

Karami said that he has a feeling that war will not break out in the Gulf and that matters will reach the brink of the abyss and stop there. He added that if war takes place it would be like a major earthquake with inconceivable consequences.

Karami predicted that the Palestinian issue will come to the fore after the Gulf crisis is resolved.

Defends Cabinet Plans

PM1401164991 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Jan 91 pp 23-24

[Report on interview with Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami by Muwaffaq Madani Daftardar in

Beirut; date not given: "The New Lebanese Prime Minister Tells AL-MAJALLAH: We Expedited the Formation of the Cabinet To Avoid Complications From the UN Ultimatum to Iraq"]

[Text] In an interview with AL-MAJALLAH at his temporary residence in 'Ayn al-Tinah in West Beirut, new Prime Minister 'Umar Karami revealed that, around the end of December, he held a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi after the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces placed obstacles in the way of the formation of the 30-member Lebanese cabinet, and that it was decided to speed up the announcement of the cabinet to the Lebanese public.

Karami stressed to AL-MAJALLAH that he was satisified with his agreement with President al-Hirawi to expedite the announcement of the new government because they considered that, as the 15 January UN deadline for Iraq was approaching, Lebanon could not be without a government considering the possible developments in the region and that, whether there was war or a peaceful process, the situation would reflect on Lebanon which, in its weak position, would be unable to predict the consequences.

Karami said he believed that the move which he and al-Hirawi made in announcing the expanded government of accord was a successful one, even if it did not meet with the approval of the alliance of the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces, because what is required in the present circumstances is "that there should be a government so that we do not move in a vacuum."

Karami hinted to AL-MAJALLAH that he believed the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces alliance might not so much oppose the government as try to stall and play for time until it sees what the situation in the Gulf is going to be after 15 January and keep the government situation open until the general situation and the repercussions in the region become clear.

He said that "delay would have been dangerous. That is why we immediately announced the government and aborted the procrastinating and playing for time."

Karami did not express any fears as to what opposition he, as prime minister, would get from the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces, who believe that the government is unbalanced because it does not represent the Christians as they requested in the negotiations held prior to the government's formation and because representation is confined mainly to the parties allied with Syria which picked up the majority of the portfolios.

Karami pointed out that his and al-Hirawi's initiative in announcing the government was based on a major international decision and reflected confidence that none of the internal parties would be able to stand against the big decision in the region. He added: "We believe that the opposition from that alliance is valueless and cannot change anything."

Karami said that, if they sought a confrontation with the legitimate government, then the government would have to confront them and enter al-Karantina and al-Ashrafiyah, that is Lebanese Forces and Phalangist areas, until this abnormal situation ends.

The prime minister emphasized that the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces alliance "cannot polarize Christian public support behind it as in the past because that alliance is not popular now and lacks public support. The proof is that the Christian ministers are in solidarity with their cabinet colleagues. Minister Michel Sasin has visited me and President al-Hirawi told me that he [Sasin] would remain in the government when the alliance called on him and the other ministers to resign in protest against the government structure. He also asked our permission to participate in the meetings of the Phalangist Party and Lebanese Forces leaderships to convey our views to them and listen to their views as a mediator."

Karami had told Sasin: We have no objection because we prefer dialogue about issues of disagreement. We believe that nobody wants to reach a point where the government would clash with the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces alliance. We want everyone to merge with the government, because after the recent wars the people cannot bear any more clashes and tragedies. Our aim is to make the parties disband the militias and ultimately take away the arms, because without that the war will be renewed and there will be no peace if the militias remain and people continue to carry arms."

Karami reaffirmed to AL-MAJALLAH that a big international decision supports the Lebanese Government's position and that it would be futile for violators to try to change that fact—this had in fact been the stumbling block for General Michel 'Awn, who had wide Christian and Muslim support but could not, despite his resistance, withstand the military campaign launched by the legitimate authority. He had superiority over the Lebanese Forces by virtue of his arms and the army regulars who supported him. How then would the Lebanese Forces be able to stand firm against us?"

Karami also said: "We should learn from what has happened. The security penetrations in the eastern area, particularly al-Matn and al-Ashrafiyah, which the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party complain about, have been taken into consideration. We have included Elie Huabyqah and Syrian Social Nationalist Party defense official As'ad Hardan in the cabinet along with George Sa'adah and Ja'ja' for that reason. The Phalangist-Lebanese Forces alliance's refusal to join the government in the interest of national accord—which in our view would guarantee political security—makes it impossible to establish complete security in greater Beirut. In my opinion, no power on earth and no Lebanese army, however strong, can establish security if that is not coupled with general reconciliation that would ensure political security."

The prime minister added: We believe that representation of all the conflicting forces and parties in the government ensures national reconciliation. We cannot exclude Hubayqah and Hardan, who have militias, from the government as long as the Lebanese Forces, particularly Samir Ja'ja', have a militia which violates security in al-Ashrafiyah just as security is violated in the two al-Matn areas. If we in the government could achieve agreement on political security, then that would mean that Beirut's security must be maintained solely through the instrument of legitimacy. I do not believe that there is an international desire to abort the al-Ta'if achievements made by the legitimate authority.

He continued: That is why we say that everyone should join the government and the peace march. I had said that I would not participate in the government if Samir Ja'ja' was part of it, but they tried for two months to persuade me to join the government, and I was finally persuaded to make a sacrifice in the interest of the peace process and in the national interest.

Karami told AL-MAJALLAH that his government would try to overcome the difficult conditions which have been accumulating for 16 years in the country and that "our first aim is to eliminate the consequences of the war by disbanding the armed militias and withdrawing their arms."

Karami said that a major task awaits the 30-member cabinet. "We have made a point of giving each minister one ministry, to enable him to deal with all matters such as water, electricity, or telephones, because the capital is dark and thirsty, and this task takes a long time."

The new Lebanese prime minister expressed the belief that the security situation in Beirut could be controlled in one of two ways: declaring a state of emergency, which would restrict public movement and assembly; or declaring Beirut a military zone for security purposes and referring violators to special courts, now that we have reactivated the judiciary system and it is beginning to work for law enforcement.

The prime minister linked all that to the question of tackling the political reasons which prompted the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces' opposition. If they refused, he said, then we would have to proceed on our course, because we have to be prepared to fully complete the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement as the Lebanese people have agreed.

Karami said that he had an understanding with the president and wanted understanding with all, because he wanted to strengthen the position of the prime minister so that he is able to take a neutral stand on all factional and sectarian disputes.

I will base top-level appointments on the principle of personal efficiency, he said.

UN's Goulding Leaves for Damascus 11 Jan

NC1101181891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who briefed him on the results of his tour of the South. Al-Hirawi hosted a luncheon for Goulding which was attended by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Ministers Michel al-Murr and Faris Buwayz, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas, and Army Commander Emile Lahhud. French Ambassador Rene Ala also attended.

Goulding left for the Syrian capital this afternoon.

Gas Field Discovered in Western al-Biqa'

NC1101131691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has looked over information about the discovery of a gas field in the al-Marj area in Weastern al-Biqa' near al-Litani. According to the details, the digging of an artesian well began in the area a few days ago. After water gushed out, digging continued for more water. Suddenly flames jumped out and the pump being used by the workers was blown 40 meters away. It is still burning. President al-Hirawi urged that engineers be sent to the area quickly to investigate.

Bulgarian Airlines Cancels Flights to Beirut

NC1201121591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Bulgarian airlines has announced that all its flights to Beirut were cancelled as of yesterday and until further notice in view of the current developments in the Gulf region.

Lebanese Prime Minister Meets al-Asad, Departs

NC1401195891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1430 today.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Talks during the meeting centered on the Lebanese situation, current efforts to implement the national accord agreement, as well as the regional situation in the light of the Gulf crisis. The meeting included a working luncheon.

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1830 GMT adds: "Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami tonight left Damascus following a one-day visit to Syria. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi saw him off at the Damascus western highway exit."]

Al-Asad Receives Yemeni President's Phone Call

NC1401171891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Republic of Yemen this evening. They talked about the Gulf crisis.

Al-Asad Receives Note From Argentinian President

NC1401173891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA)—Today President Hafiz al-Asad received a message from Argentinian President Carlos Menem. Omar Mohamad Vaquir, a special envoy of the Argentinian president, handed the message to President al-Asad during a meeting today. President al-Asad gave him a positive answer.

Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, and the Gulf crisis.

Defense Minister Views Gulf, Lebanon Prospects

PM1401121991 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Jan 91 pp 28-29

[Interview with Syrian Deputy Commander of the Army and Armed Forces, Deputy Prime Minister, and Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas by Khalil al-Taqiy in Damascus; date not specified: "Syrian Defense Minister Tells AL-MAJALLAH: The Iraqi President Wanted to Play the Part of the West's Policeman in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Taqiy] What part will the Syrian Arab forces play if the Iraqi forces do not withdraw from Kuwait?

[Talas] The main task of the Syrian Arab forces stationed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is to defend the holy land [Saudi Arabia] against any foreign attack by any side. As regards non-withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, I will answer that later.

Let me pave the way to the answer to your question by saying that Saddam Husayn has dreamed and still dreams of becoming the U.S. policeman in the Gulf and playing the same role as the shah of Iran once played. It is a historical fact that, after the Islamic revolution in Iran, Saddam Husayn invaded Iranian territory thinking that he would reach Tehran in four or five days and would free the American hostages and present them as a Christmas gift to President Carter, but he miscalculated and the war continued for eight years. [passage omitted]

To go back to the question of the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam believed that that invasion would serve the U.S. strategy. That is why he waved his stick in the face of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, because, as I have said, he wanted to play the part of policeman for the United States. He swallowed Kuwait in one gulp, invoking the wrath of the Arabs and the whole world. So the United States could not keep quiet about that act ... even though it was carried out by one of its own stooges.

We say this because we read between the lines of the minutes of the meeting held between U.S. Ambassador Glaspie and Saddam Husayn. In those minutes Saddam indirectly admits that he had launched the unjust war against Iran in the interest of the West generally and the United States particularly. Tolerating the invasion of Kuwait was, in Saddam's view, the price that the U.S. should pay him in return for services rendered to it and in return for diverting the Arab nation's attention from the Arab-Zionist conflict.

If that man had been serious about the Arab-Zionist conflict, which he used as a pretext, he would have extended his hand to President Hafiz al-Asad and said: We are with you for the liberation of the land. Then Syria would have been at the forefront, backed by the Iraqi army, then the Iranian army, and then the Gulf states. Those forces could not have been defeated, and we would have faced the world with a fait accompli. [passage omitted]

[Al-Taqiy] There is a race between the political solution and the military solution to the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the race intensifies as the 15 January UN deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait draws nearer. How do you view the situation?

[Talas] Let me say that Saddam Husayn thought that the occupation of Kuwait was his reward for his unjust war against Iran, and he did not expect this massive reaction. In the interest of historical honesty, I say that President Hafiz al-Asad was the first to contact King Fahd when he heard about the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. He also contacted President Husni Mubarak for the sake of an urgent Arab summit conference; but, on the other hand,

there were two leaders who tried to procrastinate, and bilateral contacts were held, and they themselves know how responsive Saddam was. It is regrettable that those who are now advocating an Arab solution were the ones who had opposed an Arab solution.

Now the matter is in the hands of the Security Council and the effective forces in the Arab arena. The presence of the multinational forces in the Arab Gulf cannot be overlooked. In all new developing international circumstances we must insist on the Kuwaiti people's right to return to their homeland and on restoration of the legitimate authority so that it can play its part. Saddam has been unable to find a single Kuwaiti to support him against the al-Sabah family.

Based on my own concept of the crisis and my knowledge of Saddam Husayn and his ways, I say that he will announce withdrawal before the deadline expires and he will cling to the oilfields, but the international community, particularly Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, will prevent any maneuvers or deals under the table because the unjust and the injustice must be deterred.

We are optimistic about the future in that rights will in the end be restored and Kuwait, which Saddam has turned into a country of ghosts, calamities, and hunger over the past few months, will again be the pearl of the Gulf. Kuwait used to feed 1 million people in addition to its own. Let Saddam Husayn tell us how many Arabs and foreigners remain in Kuwait.

[Al-Taqiy] The Lebanese are afraid that the national accord process may not be completed, particularly as the militias still have their arms outside Beirut and some people believe that many arms have not even been withdrawn from Beirut. How are the Syrian Arab forces tackling that situation?

[Talas] We can say that the the withdrawal of mutineer 'Awn from the Lebanese arena marked the beginning of the countdown to the restoration of legitimacy in Lebanon and the implementation of al-Ta'if agreement. The Lebanese have tried all kinds of militias, and I say that none of the Lebanese people likes the militias. The militia leaders should therefore respond to the new prevailing spirit and join the banner of the legitimate Lebanese authority. The Lebanese Army is capable of dealing a crushing blow to anyone who stands in the way of the Lebanese legitimate authority. Whatever the weapons stockpiled by the militias, the Lebanese Army is the stronger because it strikes with the sword of legitimacy.

Bangladesh

Acting President Urges Saddam to Withdraw Troops

BK1401160991 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw troops from Kuwait. Justice Shahabuddin said a war in the Gulf becomes more real than ever before and the possible loss of life, devastation of properties and infrastructures and other consequences of such a war will be colossal.

Referring to fraternal ties that bind Bangladesh and Iraq, he said we like to see the war averted at any cost. The appeal of the acting president was conveyed by Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan to Iraqi Ambassador Zuhayr 'Ummad al-'Umar in Dhaka today.

Official Personnel Evacuated From Baghdad Embassy

BK1401061891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh has evacuated its diplomats and staff from the Baghdad Embassy for their personal safety, an official spokesman said here Monday. He said counsellor Fazlur Rahman, who had been functioning as the charge d'affaires, and labour attache Shamsul Islam left Sunday along with three non-diplomatic staff and were now in Jordan.

"The embassy has not been closed but since their scope for work was very limited they left the station," the spokesman said, adding that there was no one left there.

The decision came amid mounting fears of a war in the region with the approach of the United Nations-set deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from occupied Kuwait.

Some 4,000 Bangladeshis still in Kuwait and Iraq would be taken care of by Mr. Rahman in Amman if they decided to leave the two countries.

Dhaka's ambassador to Baghdad, M.R. Osmani, came home for leave and consultations some two weeks ago and postponed his return.

National Airline Suspends Flights to Gulf

BK1501065591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0625 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Jan 15 (AFP)—Biman Bangladesh Airlines has suspended some flights to the Gulf indefinitely and re-routed others as the threat of war looms, airline officials said Tuesday. They said flights to London via Dubayy would now operate via Athens, while direct flights to Dubayy would now transit via Karachi.

The airline has suspended flights to Bahrain, Riyadh, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Muscat with immediate effect, the officials said.

Authorities have also tightened security at Dhaka's Zia International Airport after an alert from Saudi Arabia that pro-Iraqi elements could attempt a hijacking, a reliable source said.

"The airport security measures have been geared up to avert a possible terrorist attack," the source said.

Predominantly Moslem Bangladesh, which has repeatedly called for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, has sent more than 2,000 troops to join the multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

Sources said Tuesday that several Western embassies in Dhaka had asked the government for additional security and it had been offered to British, Irish and New Zealand diplomats. THE MORNING SUN newspaper said the British High Commission (embassy) would reopen Tuesday after a 48-hour closure to assess the situation.

Meanwhile Bangladeshi newspapers urged a diplomatic settlement to the Gulf crisis as the January 15 U.N.-set deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait approached.

The pro-government BANGLADESH TIMES said: "We hope diplomatic efforts to solve the issue would continue even after the deadline and eventually reason will prevail."

The pro-Iraqi daily INQILAB said peace moves failed the moment Israeli occupation of Arab lands was linked to a permanent settlement.

"It is the responsibility of the mankind to build the world and not to destroy it like a demon," it said. [passage omitted]

Student Killed in Clash With Police

BK1401170091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpts] One student was killed and a number of others injured during a clash between students and the police near City College in Dhaka today. A Dhaka Medical College (?press release said) 17 injured persons have been admitted. According to a police source, as a sequel to yesterday's incidents near the City College, agitated students came out on the street and started [words indistinct]. At one stage, they entered the nearby police [words indistinct]. They ransacked important papers and set fire to them. Senior police officers rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the students. While discussions were taking place, some students started brickbatting and throwing [word indistinct], injuring one officer and seven policemen. To bring the situation under control, the police (?resorted to) tear gas shell. The police have also alleged that agitated students [words indistinct] two police personnel by force. When policemen on duty tried to bring them back from the student's custody, firearms were used.

A press note issued in Dhaka today says a delegation of All Party Student Unity called on the home secretary to

discuss overall situation. In the light of discussion, the government constituted a one-man inquiry commission with district and session judge of Comilla, Mohammad Hamidul Haq, to investigate the incidents and make necessary arrangements [words indistinct]. The officer in charge of Dhanmondi police station has been suspended temporarily. The government wants to make it clear that law and order situation must be preserved to consolidate the process of democracy and to hold the coming parliamentary election. The government also hoped that all concerned will extend their wholehearted cooperation to the government in holding free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere. It is also expected that such [word indistinct] incidents will not occur again. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Dhaka City College has been closed sine die due to disruptions.

Ershad Calls Violence Against Students 'Blunder'

BK1401060591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 14 (AFP)—Former Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad was quoted Monday as saying it was a mistake to use "hoodlums" against student protestors who helped bring down his eight-year-old government in December.

"Employing hoodlums to break their unity was a political blunder," the 60-year-old former leader was quoted as saying by THE MORNING SUN newspaper, adding that he was "ill-advised" by his political associates.

The students formed an umbrella group called the All Party Students Unity (APSU) as the oust-Ershad campaign picked up steam last October and played a leading role in forcing him to step down on December 4.

At least four people were killed in an attack on an APSU rally during the last week in November.

Mr. Ershad, a former army chief who came to power in a bloodless 1982 coup, was also "critical" of the army for dropping its support in the final days of the crisis and agreeing to opposition demands that he resign.

Mr. Ershad is now under house arrest and charged with possession of illegal weapons, corruption and abuse of power.

THE MORNING SUN said Mr. Ershad was questioned by officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) late Sunday for the first time on charges of keeping illegal weapons.

His counsel, Barrister Shahadat Hossain was present, but no details were given. On Saturday, Mr. Ershad had refused to answer the CID's questions.

Sources Say Ershad Charged for Weapons Possession

BK1301045291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0436 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Jan 13 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have charged ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad with possessing illegal weapons, informed sources said Sunday.

They said the Home Ministry issued the arrest warrant Saturday and authorized the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to question the former leader, who had been under house arrest without specific charges for a month. Mr. Ershad refused to talk with the CID officials, referring them to his lawyers, the sources added.

Eight unlicensed weapons were recovered from Mr. Ershad's official residence in the Dhaka cantonment last week during an inventory by a government committee. Jewelry worth nearly 200,000 dollars and costly electrical appliances were also found. [passage omitted]

The pro-government DAINIK BANGLA reported Sunday that the former leader had consulted with his lawyer, barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain, on the charges that have been filed against him.

Police Guards Ershad as Trial Demands Increase

BK1201041091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0236 GMT 12 Jan 91

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 12 (AFP)—An elite armed police unit has moved in to guard the house in Dhaka where deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad is detained amid growing popular calls for his immediate trial.

The deployment of the armed police battalion, consisting of some 1,000 men, some with automatic rifles, was part of a sudden tightening of security that included digging sand-bagged bunkers and trenches around the two-storey building in the Gulshan diplomatic district, security sources said Friday.

Some 250 canvas tents have been installed in the house grounds and in a park outside to accomodate the new unit which replaced guards from the metropolitan police Wednesday, witnesses said. They added government contruction workers were working flat-out to complete the new sentry posts, observation towers and bunkers.

No official reason was given for the beefed up security at the house where Mr. Ershad, Bangladesh's longest serving ruler, and his wife Raushan, were interned following their December 12 arrest.

The measure followed renewed demands by political groups and student organisations that the former president, ousted by a popular campaign in December, should be moved to a normal jail and be brought to trial immediately.

Informed sources said the caretaker government of acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed had abandoned a plan to transfer Mr. Ershad and his wife to Dhaka's high security central jail because of persistent unrest by prisoners inside the jail following a December 29 jail revolt.

The 60-year old former general, who stepped down on December 6 in the face of mounting mass opposition, was held under a 120-day detention order pending a high-level investigation by police and officials into alleged abuses of power, corruption, possessing unlicensed arms and amassing undue wealth.

Based on an inventory of Mr. Ershad's former residence here, two cases were filed—one by police in connection with the recovery of unlicensed arms and ammunition and the other by the government anti-corruption bureau on abuse of power and amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Jail authorities said a second proposed alternative, turning the house where he is detained into an extension of the central jail, also did not work because of legal and other problems.

Witnesses said sentries in trenches on both sides of the front gate and on newly-built towers pointed automatic rifles along approach roads as the Ershads remained confined to their first floor room, the windows of which were covered by thick screens.

"We have been ordered to fortify the house, we are just carrying out the order," a plainclothed police official overseeing the security arrangments at the house said Friday.

The official, who requested anonymity, said during his rare meetings with the former president while accompanying relatives with food, he had seen him "physically all right but mentally a little bit disturbed."

Some relatives bring food everyday for the Ershads and their teenaged son who has been allowed to stay with them.

Press reports here said police officials investigating the corruption and other charges against him had sought clearance from the home ministry to interrogate Mr. Ershad and his wife in captivity in connection with the recovered arms and ammunition. One police source said permission had been given and the interrogation was expected to start in a day or two.

Goods seized at the former official presidential residence included eight illegal arms, eight legal weapons, 164 electrical items, 971 dresses and 2,614 other items, earlier reports said.

Cash totalling 5.3 million dollars was seized as was 194,000 dollars worth of diamond-studded jewellery and a 72-inch (183-centimeter) colour television connected to a folding dish antenna.

Newspapers here reported that Mr. Ershad was planning to engage foreign lawyers to defend him in case Bangladeshi lawyers decline to plead his case.

Election Officials Disallow Ershad Candidacy

BK1401121491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 14 (AFP)—Election officials Monday cancelled nomination papers for ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad because they did not carry Home Office approval.

An election official in Mr. Ershad's home district of Rangpur said all five nominations for the former president were cancelled.

He said as Mr. Ershad was under house arrest, permission for filing nominations was required under electoral laws.

Parliamentary polls are scheduled for February 27 and scrutiny of nomination papers was held Monday.

Mr. Ershad and his deposed former ruling party, the Jatiya Party, may appeal against the decision by January 21. Party officials were not available for comment Monday.

Prisoners To Be Released in Line With Demands

BK1301065091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 13 (AFP)—Some 20,000 prisoners in Bangladeshi jails will be freed shortly in line with the demands of rebellious inmates at the Dhaka central jail, a newspaper reported here Sunday.

Official sources confirmed that authorities had reached an agreement with hunger-striking prisoners in Bangladesh's main jail to end a two-week long stalemate but they could not provided details of the deal.

Some 5,000 hunger-striking prisoners at the Dhaka central jail were informed late Saturday that some of their demands would be met by the Home Ministry, the sources said. Top officials were holding talks to finalize the agreement, the sources said, adding that there could be some minor changes before its implementation.

The hunger-strikers are demanding the reconsideration of the cases of prisoners in Bangladeshi jails in the wake of the December ouster of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who ruled for eight years.

The mass-circulation daily ITTEFAQ reported that under the agreement, those to be freed would include prisoners who have served around 14 years of a life sentence, all those under age 16 or over 60, those sentenced to less than two years and the sick. The agreement also provides the right for appeal to a higher court for those imprisoned under martial law or the 1974 Special Powers Act, which allows arrest without specific charges, the daily said.

Home Ministry officials involved with the negotiations were not immediately available for comment.

At least three prisoners were killed in the Dhaka jail two weeks ago when wardens opened fire in an attempt to quell

a revolt, and since then the prison has been under the control of the inmates. Fourteen prisoners have escaped.

A Dhaka central jail official said inmates had celebrated Saturday night after hearing an agreement had been reached but had yet to break the strike or go back to their cells.

"They are not demonstrating today and have told us that a senior official would come to formally break their fast-unto-death campaign," adding that jail staff were waiting for instructions from the Home Ministry.

There are some 35,000 prisoners in Bangladesh's five main jails, including 5,000 in Dhaka.

India

Pro-, Anti-Iraq Raliies Outside U.S. Embassy

BK1401162091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 14 (AFP)—Nearly 900 Indians and Arabs supporting and opposing Iraq's occupation of Kuwait staged noisy rival demonstrations Monday outside the heavily-barricaded U.S. Embassy here.

About 500 Iraqis, Palestinians and Jordanians joined a handful of Indians for the biggest of the five different protests, hailing President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and condemning the United States.

Police pushed back the slogan-shouting demonstrators, including Arab children and women, when they tried to breach a security cordon and march to the U.S. Embassy gates, but there was no violence, witnesses said.

"Long Live Saddam Husayn", "Down With George Bush" and "Allah Akbar" (God Is Great), the Indian-Arab crowd chanted throughout the 40-minute rally as Tuesday's deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait neared.

The protestors then submitted to U.S. diplomats a memorandum condoning Baghdad's occupation. "Iraq firmly believes in peace and cooperation in the (Gulf) region, but feels that the region is deeply cancered by the permanent Israeli aggression and occupation," it said.

The Arabs and Indians waved Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian flags, and colourful portraits of Mr. Husayn, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan.

The Indians and Arabs, all residents of New Delhi, later shouted similar slogans for 10 minutes outside the equally well-guarded British High Commission nearby, but dispersed peacefully.

Some 400 other Indians, in four groups, staged separate demonstrations one after the other outside the U.S. Embassy, opposing a war in the Gulf and demanding Iraq's immediate pullout from Kuwait.

"We Don't [Want] War, We Want Peace," "Saddam Husayn Leave Kuwait", shouted an estimated 100 members of an Indian Moslem group, which in a statement condemned U.S. warnings to use force against Baghdad.

The other demonstrators included Indians who have fled the Gulf since Mr. Husayn's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, and Indian peace activists opposed to a Gulf conflict.

Some 200 police and paramilitary forces were on guard outside the U.S. Embassy, and police sources said they were expecting more pro- and anti-Saddam Husayn demonstrations.

India has called for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis, saying any war would spell disaster.

Air India To Continue All Gulf Flights

BK1501070691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Air India will continue to operate its flights to all destinations in the Gulf, including Jeddah and Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, till such time the airspace is not closed to commercial traffic. [sentence as heard] Air India's crisis management cell at Bombay is in touch with its officials in West Asia.

Shekhar Opposes Palestine-Kuwait Linkage

BK1401161991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Calcutta today, the prime minister described the Gulf situation as critical and fluid. Mr. Chandra Shekhar hoped that a negotiated settlement of the crisis would come about at the last moment. He said that the right of self-determination of the Palestinians and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait are two separate issues. These should not be clubbed together.

On the possibility of petrol rationing, the prime minister said that if there is a war, the entire nation, along with the rest of the world, should be ready to face the difficulty.

Disqualified Ministers' Resignations Rejected

BK1201162891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Five ministers, including External Affairs Minister V.C. Shukla and Health Minister Shakilur Rahman, submitted their resignations from the Union Council of Ministers, following their disqualification as members of the Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar has rejected the resignations. The prime minister said that having considered all aspects of the matter, he feels that they should continue and function as ministers in the present situation. The prime minister told them that they can remain as ministers without being a member of parliament for some time.

The other ministers who sent in their resignations are: Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan, Mr. Sarwar Hussain, and Mr. Basevraj Patil. They are all ministers of state.

The Janata Dal-S is seeking legal opinion on the disqualification of eight of its Lok Sabha members, including five ministers, by the speaker. The party spokesman, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the speaker's decision poses no threat to the Chandra Shekhar government as it enjoys majority support in the Lok Sabha. He said there is no legal or constitutional bar in the continuance of five ministers, who have been disqualified, as a non-member can function as a minister for six months. He also said there is no immorality in their continuance as members of the Council of Ministers. Replying to questions, Mr. Malaviya, denied that his party will consider amending the anti-defection law or submitting a petition to the speaker to reconsider his decision.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has described as judicious the speaker's decision disqualifying the eight members of Parliament. In a statement in New Delhi, the party demanded that the five disqualified ministers should resign.

The Congress-I has also demanded resignation of the five ministers. The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-Indira] General Secretary Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, said their stepping down will be in keeping with democratic traditions.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] said the continuation of these ministers in office would amount to legitimizing defections.

The National Front Chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said it is unfortunate that the disqualified ministers are continuing.

Shekhar on Defection Issue, Assam, Kashmir

BK1501032291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar has strongly refuted the allegation that the formation of the Janata Dal-S has led to defections. Replying to questions by newsmen in Calcutta yesterday, he said even the speaker has observed that there is a serious doubt about the law of defections. The split in the Janata Dal took place according to the law which stands today. The disqualification of eight Lok Sabha has been done purely on technical grounds.

On the question of withdrawal of support to his government by the Congress-I, the prime minister said if the Congress-I withdraws its support, elections would be held for which all political parties are gearing up.

On the question of realignment of political forces in the country, the prime minister said he does not see any move in the immediate future. However, he felt realignment is a process of political development.

He denied that there is any pressure from Mr. Gandhi on the Tamil Nadu issue.

He also said there is no proposal to expand his ministry in the near future.

He reiterated that the government wants to hold elections in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest but much will depend on the situation there.

Sikh Leader Demands Self-Determination

BK1501071391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The Akali Dal leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, has reiterated his party's determination to fight for self-determination of the Sikhs. He was addressing an Akali Dal conference on the eve of Maghi [a festival] at Muktsar in Faridkot District yesterday. It was the first conference after the merger of three main Akali factions under the leadership of Mr. Mann. Mr. Mann said that he has submitted a memorandum to the center listing the demands of the Sikhs. It is now for the prime minister to call him for discussions. He criticized those who are opposing the dialogue between the prime minister and the Akali Dal leaders.

Earlier, when the former chief minister, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, and the former SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh Temple Management—Committee] president, Mr. G.S. Tohra, rose to speak they faced a hostile crowd who shouted slogans against them.

Militants Said To Favor Moderate Solution

BK1501092291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a major chunk of militants is in favor of a solution to the state's problem within the constitutional framework. PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], quoting press reports, says among the militants there are a large number of moderates. The agency says the raids, punitive action, and stepping up of vigilance on the border have produced good results.

Army Develops Special Counterinsurgency Unit

BK1401164291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The Army has developed a special unit to deal with insurgency in the country. This was disclosed by the chief of army staff, General S.F. Rodriguez, in an exclusive interview to All India Radio on the eve of the 42d Army Day. General Rodriguez said that jawans [soldiers] of the anti-insurgency unit have been given special training. The unit can be deployed without affecting the normal activities of the Army.

General Rodriguez said the decision about the induction of women into the Army will be taken in the next two to three

months. He also outlined the steps being taken by the Army to improve the standard of sports in the country.

Iran

Habibi Welcomes Libya's Jallud, Previews Talks

LD1401211491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] 'Abd al-Salim Jallud, member of the Leadership Council of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Tehran today. He was welcomed by First Vice President Habibi at Mehrabad airport. In an interview with reporters, Mr. Habibi, while expressing delight at Mr. Jallud's visit to Tehran, described the ties between Iran and Libya as very favorable. We draw your attention to the remarks made by the first vice president.

[Begin Habibi recording] First, I want to welcome his excellency, Mr. Jallud, and his accompanying delegation. I am pleased to welcome him in Tehran and be his host. We are two friendly and fraternal countries, which have had friendly, fraternal, and revolutionary relations with each other for many years. We hope that during this visit we can discuss and expand our bilateral ties. Also, in view of the current situation in the region, we plan to study these problems and to become acquainted with each other's views on the current issues of the Persian Gulf. The important point is the fact that at present, global arrogance and imperialism are present in the region and the Persian Gulf. We condemn this presence. Of course, on the other hand, as we told our Iraqi neighbors several days ago in Tehran, we believe that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was not in the interest of the world of Islam, Muslims, and even Iraq. These are the points about which we have expressed our opinion so far, and during our talks in the coming days we will review and discuss these issues. [end recording]

President Remarks on Ousting of Health Minister

LD1301203691 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting this afternoon. Internal affairs and the Persian Gulf issues were discussed first, then the cabinet praised Mr. Fazel's endeavors and services in his post as the minister of health, treatment, and medical education.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the subject of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's vote of no confidence on Mr. Fazel, said: We are truly greatly saddened that we have lost one of our best colleagues in the government and in reality we, the government and the people, have sustained a loss. The president addressed Mr. Fazel and said: However, you are in the service of the revolution and even when you were not a minister, you served health, treatment, universities, and everybody. No doubt you will be in the service of the revolution until the end of your life. Nonetheless we are very sad, and think that one of the most important state centers which is in dire need of fundamental work has been deprived of your presence.

The president stressed: Of course we give priority to the right of Majles in this regard and consider it to be more important than anything and respect its verdict. God willing, the people and government will utilize your services in other centers.

Mr. Fazel replied: I believe whatever happens is to the good of the country and even now I thank God and am satisfied in my heart about this outcome. Mr. Fazel added: During my period of service, I had the honor of being engaged in revolutionary soldiering along with colleagues like you in the cabinet and other colleagues in the Ministry of Health, and besides serving, I learned humanity and management from you. I am pleased that during this period God gave me this opportunity. Now I feel relieved, since without shirking my work, the burden has been lifted from my shoulders and I feel that it is a favor to me not to carry a burden greater than I can shoulder. However, wherever I am in this country, I will be the servant of the revolution and will carry out any task with utmost willingness. I am proud to perform my duties in this country as a serving member, and sincerely wish you and your colleagues who are with you success.

Appoints New Health Minister

LD1401123291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dear listeners. As you heard earlier, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani issued a decree today appointing Dr. Reza Malekzadeh as the head [sarparast] of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Most honorable Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, in view of your scientific and administrative skills and on the basis of Article 135 of the Islamic Republic's Constitution, I appoint you as the head of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education so that you may carry out all the tasks of that Ministry.

I hereby express my gratitude and appreciation to the honorable Dr. Fazel and his colleagues for their valuable efforts and services. I trust that all colleagues throughout the country will cooperate with you with full enthusiasm and in an effective manner toward the implementation of ongoing programs so that there will not be any break in health and treatment services available to the people, and that the educational and scientific level of our dear [medical] students will continue to improve.

I wish you every success in the fulfilment of your grave responsibility.

[Signed] 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 24.10.69 [14 Jan 91].

Saudi Report on Collaboration With Iraq Rebutted

NC1301102991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Jan 91 p 8

[Political commentary: "An Explanation of Aggression or an Eye to the Future?"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis started with the occupation of Kuwait and will be completed with the U.S. aggression against the entire region. The specter of a military confrontation is lurking in the corridors of the venues of international conferences allegedly being held to prevent aggression in the hope of creating a new world order.

The massive and extensive concentration of foreign forces is in itself unprecedented since World War II, and is arrayed in a manner that belies such allegations. Iraq occupied Kuwait and the world took a united position against this action. However, the United States occupied the Persian Gulf, but in a different manner, that is, by invitation, but no one except the Islamic Republic of Iran—which is opposed to all kinds of aggression—protested.

The AL-MADINAH newspaper published in Saudi Arabia has concocted some dubious reports of a Tehran-Baghdad behind-the-scenes agreement and claims that the two countries are to collaborate in the manufacture of arms.

The right to adopt any stance, whether of solidarity or of coalition with another country is the legitimate prerogative of every country, and one which it can adopt to serve its national interests, except when these interests are questionable or intrude on the boundaries of other countries.

One cannot accept the claims that, with the lapse of barely five months, Tehran and Baghdad have upgraded their relations to the level of cooperating in the ordnance industries of one another or that they have agreed on a program for the transfer of technology.

The process of peace between the two countries has taken place overtly, and within the framework of UN Resolutions and there is nothing in this process that is dubious, or requires any clarification.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stands proudly in peace, because of its victory in the imposed war, and on the basis of its independent and principled stance. The most powerful country in the region, from the point of view of its actual and potential power, is in an honorable position today, because of its logical policies. All kinds and forms of aggression on the part of every government or governments are to be condemned. However, just as aggression is to be condemned, unprincipled explanations of aggression will also be condemned.

If the military solution to the crisis has been proposed and the countries involved intend to prepare world public opinion, and to do so in one day, without doubt, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be on their list.

The active Riyadh-Washington axis should cast a glance at the ranks of their friends and foes. Washington cannot rule the Persian Gulf forever with its bullying tactics after setting it on fire. On principle, the Muslim uprising will not tolerate such a situation. France is the first country participating in the region to declare openly that, if the crisis in Kuwait comes to an end, it will not intervene further.

Thus, it appears that the AL-MADINAH newspaper is still harboring fantasies about leadership of the Arab world by the Al-Sa'uds!

RESALAT on Protecting National Interests

NC1301140191 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Dec 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Preparing for Protection of our National Interests"]

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session to anticipate any necessary measures for protecting the country's national interests and the ways and means of combating threats that will face the country in the event of a war in the region and because of the presence of the Western forces. Without doubt, if war breaks out in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran will also experience the fallout and dangers from the crisis.

On the basis of defense experts' forecasts, the war will be extensive and prolonged. If the United States is able to utilize the strategy of a "first strike" and gains all its objectives, the war will engulf all the areas around the Persian Gulf. In such circumstances, how much pressure will be exerted on Iran, which has the longest border with Iraq? What problems will face our country in such a situation?

Most certainly, the Islamic Republic of Iran can use its military capabilities as "a deterrent force" against any threat. We need a very strong army to defend our national interests. An important means would be a show of strength in maneuvers involving the three branches of our Armed Forces, especially in the southern regions of our country.

We cannot permit even one inch of our country's soil, or our islands to be exposed to aggression by foreign forces. Therefore we envision that a defensive array of forces in the strategic areas of our country, especially in the islands of the Persian Gulf, and particularly Khark Island, is essential. In fact, deploying a missile system in these areas will ensure the country's security.

The deployment of a deterrent force can be instrumental in limiting the flames of war from reaching Iran. If the United States can defeat the Iraqi regime, or bring that country to the point of disintegration, Iran will be in danger again.

In either case, the United States will be seeking pretexts to attack Iran, so that it can implement its self-devised security system in an effort to move toward a balance of forces in the region.

Public opinion at large in Iran should be prepared to encounter these dangers and should not imagine that a war in the Persian Gulf will have no repercussions on us! In the event of an outbreak of war, the worst situation will be that of being caught unawares in the mesh of the decisions of others. In such circumstances, the most important words will be spoken in the language of cannons and missiles. If our enemies impose the language of weapons on us, we will be forced to rely on our military strength to protect our national interests.

If, in the wake of a possible defeat of Iraq, the Israeli regime embarks on expansionism, and sends its forces to Jordan or to Lebanon, what would the obligation be of the world of Islam? It appears, therefore, that our forces have a special role to play in facing the future dangers of the region.

Without the slightest doubt, the Persian Gulf crisis is the most important issue at present, and public opinion must be schooled in preparing for all aspects of this crisis. Nothing should be allowed to overshadow this.

If the people and officials are fully aware of the concomitant dangers of the crisis, they will refrain from doing anything to jeopardize our interests in such a situation.

Culture Minister Welcomes Turkmen Officials

LD1301151191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Kuliyev, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr. Babayev, deputy minister of education of Soviet Turkmenia as well as a number of religious ulema and writers of that country met Mr. Khatami, minister of Islamic culture and guidance this morning.

According to the report of the central news unit, Mr. Khatami said when welcoming them: We are sure that thanks to the new developments in the Soviet Union a new chapter will open in the relations of the two countries. We welcome the developments appearing in the Soviet Union; we attribute them to the courage of Mr. Gorbachev. Certainly our relations with the Muslim nations of the Soviet Union can enjoy further depth.

He added: Today Islam in Iran is the greatest enemy of imperialism. It is the desire of all nations to remain free. We extend the hand of friendship and peace to all nations who seek independence. It is natural that such friendship and interest will be greater with regard to nations with which we have common borders.

Our country's minister of Islamic culture and guidance stressed that the basis of our relations must be cultural because the identity of the two nations is their culture. He continued: We are fully prepared to expand our relations in cultural fields while maintaining the laws of the two countries [as heard]. Also, in the field of tourism and exchange of teachers and students, we can have good cultural relations with our brother especially with regard to an open policy which has been created under the title of open political atmosphere.

On the basis of this report, Mr. Kuliyev, minister of foreign affairs of Soviet Turkmenia, who is heading the team, expressed his pleasure at making the visit. He said: While we have common borders, our previous ties were not expanded much. Now we are happy that the peoples of the two countries can have close contacts. We hope to establish more expanded ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: We want to exchange cultural and art groups and also expand the Persian Gulf to Soviet Turkmenia. We want to teach Persian to our children from the elementary school. Here we need the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tehran Urges Unity Among Afghan Rebels

NC1201113291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. More than 20 months after the departure of the last contingents of the Soviet occupation forces from Afghanistan, the critical situation in this country continues, even now while the world is witnessing a massive political crisis because of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces.

Observers believe that the continuation of the crisis in Afghanistan, when the world is witnessing massive political changes from the spreading trend of democracy and the revival of the values based on the will of the people, is the result of the complicated political-military situation of this country. After the Soviet contingents left Afghanistan it was expected that the country's crisis would end. On the contrary, a new crop of sporadic and not very successful clashes arose and snarled the political problems, which lent greater complexity to the Afghanistan issue.

The Islamic land of Afghanistan is the scene of the lack of fundamental dynamism in the political and military field, which the political analysts believe is an offshoot of the inability of the mojahedin forces to achieve a consensus of views on a unified military strategy. On the other hand, the situation is further aggravated by the efforts of the various sides involved in attaining a compromise, and a practical political solution.

It appears that during the past few months, the Najibullah government is striving to consolidate his bases by using the discord in the ranks of the Mojahedin groupings of Afghanistan, and has gained a suitable opportunity for tackling the internal opponents and projecting a stronger image of his government's structure to the world.

By displaying immense, but merely ostensible flexibility on political issues recently, the Kabul administration has been able to obtain a measure of success, however limited, within the country and abroad. A point which merits attention is, that, in the present circumstances, it appears that Najibullah is capitalizing on the time factor for his own benefit, as experience has proved that prolonging the critical situation in Afghanistan is instrumental in escalating the differences among the leaders of the factions and mojahedin forces, and this prevents them from attaining a coordinated solution.

On the other hand, the inclination of various countries to continue to support the Afghanistan resistance movement has waned for certain reasons, and the refugees' desire for return, in view of the hardships in the host countries, seems to be on the rise. It therefore appears that the Kabul regime is seeking to resolve the issue with a compromise between the Soviet Union and the United States, or by bringing the issue to the desired juncture through international talks, and thus to bypass the role of the mojahedin groups of Afghanistan, in the political future of the country.

In any case, the recent politico-military experiences of the Afghan mojahedin, especially in the wake of the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghan soil, proves that the disunity of the mojahedin cannot ensure their political and military victory. There is no doubt that the future of a Muslim, nonaligned, and independent Afghanistan cannot be possible without the participation of all the groups in the Afghan struggle.

The question thus arises: Will the Afghan mojahedin groups and the Muslim nation in the country agree to hand over—at the expense of internecine strife and discord—the gains of their relentless struggle against the international powers to their enemies? The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed the consistent support of the mojahedin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan in this regard, and has called for their solidarity and cohesion in the face of the plots of the enemies' of Islam. Iran requests the mojahedin forces to forge the destiny and future of their country with unity and vigilance.

Daily Denounces UK Stand on Kowkabi Issue

NC1201133991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Jan 91 p 2

[Political commentary: "Dualism in the Actions and Words of the British Embassy in Tehran"]

[Text] The British Embassy decided to reply to the news report entitled "The British Embassy has refused an exit visa to the Iranian witness for Mehrdad Kowkabi" published in ABRAR newspaper on 12 Dey 1369 [2 January 1991].

The ABRAR political correspondent contacted Dr. Mojtaba Shari'ati, spokesman for the committee for the support of the Muslim students under the tyranny of the British regime, for comment on the British Embassy's letter to this newspaper and asked him for details of the British Embassy's obstructionism in Tehran. Shari'ati stated: I think it is necessary to elaborate on a few points:

1. The issue of a request for a visa for Mehrdad Kowkabi's relatives and his family was not raised, and this is a lie. In my meeting with Mr. (Reddaway), the charge d'affaires in the British Embassy in Tehran on 5 December, the issue of a request for a visa for Mehrdad Kowkabi's friends as witnesses at his trial was raised. The British charge d'affaires in Tehran responded: You should try to contact Mehrdad Kowkabi's lawyer through your friends in London and his lawyer should correspond with the British Home Ministry about the invitation to the witness for Kowkabi. If the British Home Ministry considers it appropriate then it will contact the British Embassy in Tehran. By that time the visa section will have opened in the Iranian Embassy in London and the visa will be issued. If this is not possible, we will refer you to the British Embassy in a third country so that a visa can be issued.

2. The impractical proposal by the charge d'affaires does not allow for the request for a visa by the witness for Mehrdad Kowkabi to be accepted, so that he could go to Britain.

3. When political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain were severed and the embassies of the two countries were closed, the families and friends of the British spy "Roger Cooper," who is in prison in Iran, were able to meet with and visit him.

Now the British Embassy in Tehran is functioning, but it refrains from issuing a visa, when there are only four days left until Mehrdad Kowkabi's trial. Until three days ago, the British Home Ministry had not given Kowkabi's lawyer any reply to his letter inviting the witness for Kowkabi.

4. The British Embassy and the charge d'affaires did not obstruct the process so that they could say in Tehran: We will not issue a visa to the witness for Kowkabi. All they wanted to do was waste the applicants'time, and thus the British Government will get what it wanted: no witness for Kowkabi at the trial.

Commentary on 'Impasse' in Relations With UK

NC1401181691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jan 91 p 3

[Political commentary entitled: "Britain at an Impasse"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the British have always pursued a hostile policy against Muslim Iranian students. This policy ranges from actually flogging and beating students, to arrest and imprisonment.

London, which has been angered by the Islamic Revolution, considers them a hindrance to its illicit interests in the world of Islam. It has embarked on a policy of

vengeance by using Iranian students as the frontline of its campaign for its continued attacks.

As soon as the Iranian students arrive in London, Britain expects them to forget their religious faith and practices and to embrace the colonial policies along with its decadent culture, contaminated with corruption. The students who seem inclined to do so find favor with the British Government. Otherwise, they are considered suspect, and are subject to accusations on various pretexts. [passage omitted]

In the past few years the British Government has expelled quite a few Iranian students—and their greatest crime was their support of the Islamic Revolution. In 1360 [year beginning 21 March 1981], some counterrevolutionaries attacked the building of the Islamic Revolution of Iran's Consulate in London, with the support of the British Government. Some other Iranian students tried to defend the Consulate. This attempt to defend the Consulate aroused the indignation of the Thatcher government, and some of these students were arrested and sent to jail. [passage omitted]

Continuing their anti-Islamic attitude, the British police arrested an Iranian student who was trying to wipe off anti-Revolution slogans from the walls of the Iranian Consulate in London, and threatened him violently. Another student was expelled from London for his defense of Islam, which was labeled 'support of brutality' (!) Another student was arrested as he was coming out of a mosque in Manchester, and was deported after a fortnight of incarceration. Five other Iranian students were expelled from the country on similar grounds, and the British Foreign Office issued a very rudely-worded letter to the Iranian students being expelled, stating: "Your crime is the support of the Imam, the Islamic Revolution, and your participation in religious ceremonies."

The harsh treatment of Iranian students was increased when the Imam issued a historical decree regarding the apostate British author Salman Rushdie, and the so-called task force to combat terrorism began its attacks on Iranian students. Some students, including Mehrdad Kowkabi, were arrested on charges of attempting to set the building housing Penguin Publications on fire. After a few days, Kowkabi was also charged with setting some other bookstores ablaze some months ago.

The anti-Islamic Thatcher government incarcerated the arrested Iranian students in the terrifying dungeons of Brixton, without giving any prior information of their whereabouts to their families. With the mounting pressure of public opinion, the British Government released these students with the exception of Mehrdad Kowkabi. Since then more than one year has elapsed, but the British court has not been able to to collect the necessary data, and has employed the most violent psychological force against Kowkabi in order to undermine his resistance and spirit.

It is not known what condition Kowkabi is in, but the British Government should be taken to task for the year of torture and cruelty it has inflicted on Kowkabi. However, with the downfall of Thatcherism in Britain and with the relegation of the anti-Islamic old hag to history, it appears that the present government seems to be treading a more evenhandedly and hopefully more reasonable path, so that by eliminating obstacles to the release of Kowkabi, the road will be paved for the expansion of relations between the two countries.

If this is not done, it will be an intolerable situation for the people of our country, and could strain relations between the two countries.

In any case, Britain is at an impasse, and the verdict of its court will indicate either a realistic attitude or a continuation of the anti-Islamic policy of Thatcherism in Britain.

Opposition Claims Government To Attack Iraq

TA1501081091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] It is being said in Tehran's political circles that the Islamic Republic regime is lying in wait to attack Iraq, with the help of America—the great Satan—and occupy parts of this country, should war break out between Iraq and the multinational forces deployed in the Arabian Peninsula. According to these circles, the Islamic Republic regime will in all likelihood occupy the oil-rich Majnun Islands with the aid of the great Satan.

Pakistan

Anti-U.S. Protests Reported in Several Cities

BK1401125491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 14 (AFP)—Police on Monday baton- charged a stone-throwing crowd as it tried to mount a protest outside the U.S. Information Center here to protest Washington's Gulf policy, witnesses said.

The centre was immediately closed. Security men pulled down its shutters, and a U.S. spokesman said public entry was being halted as a precautionary measure.

Elsewhere, hundreds of people rallied in nearby Rawalpindi, the Punjabi capital Lahore, and in the northwest city of Peshawar against the United States and in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, witnesses said.

Students belonging to right-wing Anjuman Tuleba Islam (ATI) arrived in two buses near the American centre in the Pakistani capital with anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli banners and an effigy of U.S. President George Bush.

But police deployed around the center intercepted the marchers before they could torch the effigy.

The students retaliated by pelting the police with stones, prompting the baton charge. Several students were seen being whisked away by police in a truck.

A demonstration in front of the same centre in February 1990 against British author Salman Rushdie for his book "The Satanic Verses" turned into a bloodbath that left seven people dead.

Pakistan has been witnessing almost daily protest rallies since the failure of U.S.-Iraqi talks in Geneva last week to defuse Gulf tension.

In Rawalpindi, the local branch of the main opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto and its student wing burned President Bush in effigy.

About 300 people took part in the rally, carrying portraits of Mr. Hussein and placards expressing solidarity with what was termed as his "courageous stand against American imperialism and Israel," witnesses said.

Shouting "Down With American Dogs," the demonstrators paraded along the main thoroughfare and held a meeting before dispersing.

Speakers urged all Moslem nations to rise up in support of President Hussein, and said efforts should be made to dispatch volunteers to Iraq if the need arose.

Pakistan this week began to double to 10,000 its contingent in the multi-national forces in the Gulf which are arrayed against Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

In Peshawar, police fired teargas shells at demonstrators as they started to march to the U.S. Consulate, sources said.

In Lahore, capital of Punjab Province, thousands marched in an anti-U.S. demonstration organized by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, a component of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Sharif Expresses 'Grave Concern' Over Gulf

LD1401110391 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 14, IRNA—Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here Monday expressed grave concern over the situation in the Persian Gulf following the unsuccessful talks of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with President Saddam Husayn of Iraq in Baghdad on Sunday.

Nawaz Sharif speaking to IRNA [ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY] on the eve of his trip to Tehran, stressed that Iraq must pull out of Kuwait unconditionally and by executing the U.N. Security Council resolutions take advantage of the remaining opportunities.

Stating that outbreak of a war in the Persian Gulf after the January 15 U.N. Security Council deadline was unpredictable, he said that Islamabad was ready for any cooperation for peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Minister Assures UAE of 'Support' in Crisis

BK1401122491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources and minister in charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has held talks with the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi. Nisar Ali Khan assured the UAE leader of Pakistan's help and support in the Gulf crisis. He also delivered a message from the Pakistani prime minister to the UAE deputy prime minister in which he has expressed desire for improving bilateral relations.

Talking to the UAE's minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan identified the areas in which two countries can further improve their economic cooperation.

1,000 Troops To Leave for UAE

BK1501092191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 15 (AFP)—Pakistan is to send 1,000 soldiers to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on top of the 10,000 Pakistani troops already in Saudi Arabia, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

"There is an agreement" with Abu Dhabi that the battalion "can go anytime," said General Riaz Ullah, the army's public relations chief.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, Pakistan has sent an infantry brigade and an armored brigade, totalling more than 10,000 troops, to Saudi Arabia.

General Ullah, in response to a question, said an armed conflict in the Gulf could last four weeks.

The first two weeks would be the most spectacular, involving heavy air force participation, while the latter two weeks would consist of "mopping up operations" of the Iraqi defenses, he said, while refusing to predict exactly when the war would end.

He predicted a "murderous" confrontation in which pain would be inevitable.

Nuclear Energy Chief Comments on 1991 Program

BK1401005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 2243 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 14 (AFP)—The chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmad Khan, said late Monday that he expected 1991 to be a "significant year" for the country's nuclear program.

Speaking on state television, Mr. Khan said negotiations were under way with China and France over the installation of 300 and 900 megawatt nuclear plants respectively and added that this year would be "significant" for the overall nuclear program.

Pakistani scientists are capable of designing the plants, he said, but constructing them would require large-scale investment which could only be obtained through cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Mr. Khan spoke of an 800 megawatt energy shortfall which he said was costing the economy 500 million dollars in losses a year.

Beijing and Paris announced energy cooperation programs with Pakistan during the visits in late 1989 and early 1990 of Chinese Premier Li Peng and French President Francois Mitterrand.

In October, the United States froze military contracts and refused to renew some 600 million dollars in annual aid due to suspicions that Pakistan was developing nuclear weapons.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne on LTTE Arms Smuggling Attempt

BK1201125891 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijerante, says that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] were attempting to smuggle arms through Malaysia. They have regrouped their cadres and are now in a better position than they were about 10 days ago. The minister made this statement when he answered a question raised by the newsmen at today's cabinet briefing in Colombo.

In case a war breaks in the Gulf, Mr. Wijeratne said that the goverment has taken all emergency measures to deal with the situation, especially food and fuel supplies.

Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge detailed some of the major cease-fire violations committed by the LTTE since 31 December. Twelve LTTE cadres have been killed by the security forces, while one died and four injured from the armed forces. General Ranatunge also informed that the LTTE had written to him to instruct the Navy not to patrol in the northern sea and the Air Force their aircraft not to fly there any more.

Information State Minister A J. Ranasinghe and Air Chief Marshall Walter Fernando were also present at the briefing.

Explanation of Resumption of Anti-LTTE Efforts

BK1201131191 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Government communique states that the continuing violation of the cease-fire unilaterally declared by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leaves the government with no alternative course of action other than not to extend the temporary suspension of offensive operation which ended at midnight on Thursday [10 January]. The government arrived at this decision after a careful review of all representations made on the basis of its assessment of the current situation.

The communique further adds that the government calls upon Mr. Prabhakaran, the leader of the military wing of the LTTE, to resume talks with the government. Such talks will be preceded by the declaration against the possession and use of arms by any group of persons other than those authorized by the law. All political parties would be invited to participate in such talks. The communique adds that if the invitation to talk on these terms is accepted by the LTTE, the government will be prepared to suspend offensive operations against the LTTE. However, the government will suspend offensive operations in the north and east on the 14th of January, Tai Pongal [a festival of harvest] day.

The government also calls upon the LTTE to release all hostages and not to take any more, to stop all torture and execution of all captives and prisoners, and to stop using civilians in mine clearing operations. The government calls upon the LTTE to stop recruiting innocent citizens and children for combat and to stop all reprisal on civilians and acts of terrorization as a means of obtaining their support. It has also asked the LTTE to prove it humanization access to all prisoners of war as a further manifestation of the LTTE's interest in relieving civilian hardships brought about by their action. [sentence as heard]

The government communique states that it was in response to the LTTE's unilateral declaration of a cease-fire from 31 December 1990, the government suspended offensive operation against the LTTE for a period of seven days from midnight of Thursday, 3 January. Since 31 December the government has been carefully monitoring the activities of the LTTE. Over 34 violations of the LTTE cease-fire were reported up to Thursday. Many of these have been of a serious nature involving loss of life. Many instances of building of bunkers and regrouping of LTTE cadres have been reported. On this assessment the government is convinced that the LTTE cease-fire has not been dictated by a genuine desire for peace but it is a view to gain more time to group their forces which are in absolute disarray. The government has received a communication from the LTTE dated 9 January. They made the claim that the conditions stipulated by the government in a temporary suspension of offensive operations are unfair. The government's suspension of offensive operations for a period of seven days precisely to test whether the claim of the LTTE was genuine or not. [sentence as heard] Routine patrolling and surveillance by the security forces during the period was absolutely essential in the interest of maintaining law, order, and public security. These are minimum conditions that a lawfully constituted government has to maintain in the interest of civil administration and safeguarding of territorial integrity. To do less would be to abdicate responsibility of law and order and the protection of the civilian population. The communique further states that the government has taken note of the

fact that the statement made by the LTTE so far has emenated from its so-called political wing.

However, it is the military wing of the LTTE that dictates action on the ground. Therefore, the government insists that in any further talk, the military wing must represent the LTTE. The government is committed to a search for a peaceful solution of the northeast question. On the 10th [January] evening it had the opportunity of learning of the views of several parties, many of them representing the Tamil and Muslim communities which constitute in the north and east.

LTTE To Continue Truce

BK1501094891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas broke a government declared truce to mark a Hindu religious festival with a mortar attack on an army camp, a military spokesman charged here Tuesday.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters kept up a barrage of mortar fire at Kadduwan military camp on Monday forcing troops to retaliate, killing at least one guerrilla, the spokesman said.

The government ordered troops to suspend operations against the LTTE Monday to mark Tai Pongal, or the harvest festival of Sri Lanka's minority Hindus who are mostly Tamils concentrated in the embattled northeast.

"We were taking only defensive action. The Tigers attacked us even on Thai Pongal day," the spokesman said.

The LTTE, however, in a statement from its London office, said the group would continue indefinitely to observe a truce it declared on January 1 even if security forces did not recognise it.

"The LTTE reiterates that they will continue to observe the unilateral ceasefire genuinely, reserving to themselves the right to defensive armed actions against the offensive armed operations of the Sri Lankan Government," the LTTE statement said.

The government resumed attacks against the LTTE after a 10-day temporary truce expired last week saying the LTTE had violated its own ceasefire.

One soldier and at least 10 Tigers were killed during an army raid on two LTTE hideouts in eastern Batticaloa district Sunday, the spokesman said.

In other developments, the LTTE freed a policeman following the intervention of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

An ICRC statement said it visited 43 police constables held by the LTTE and asked for the release of one on medical grounds. The remains of another constable who died in captivity were handed over to Sri Lankan authorities.

The government had accused the Tigers of taking some 600 policemen hostage and killing most of them in June when fresh fighting broke out between guerrillas and security forces following 14 months of peace talks.

Since then, more than 5,270 people, including security personnel and civilians, have died in bitter fighting.